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REVIEWS

A Winter's Journey (Tâtar) from Constantinople to Tehran, &c. By J. B. Fraser, Esq. 2 vols. Bentley.

SINCE our scamper with Captain Head over the Pampas, we have not been hurried over space so rapidly and so pleasantly as by Mr. Fraser, in his Tâtar ride from Constantinople to Tehran. He was sent by Lord Glenelg on a special mission to Persia, connected, we presume, from different hints in these volumes, with the succession to the throne of that country, which seemed likely to be disputed on the death of Futeh Ali Shah. As that event was imminent when Mr. Fraser left England, speed was of the utmost importance; and he pushed forward at a rate only to be rivalled by Russian couriers, or the Turkomans of the desert. He gives a very graphic account of his posting in France—his jellings over the spring-breaking chausées of Belgium—his glimpses of comfort under the administration of Prussia—his tortures on the highways of Bavaria—the trials of his patience by the slow but civil Austrians—the ruin of his temper by the self-sufficient Hungarians, with their rat-like horses and devils steppes, until at Semlin he commences his career of Tâtar posting, and steeple-chases the road from thence to Constantinople. After a brief delay in the Turkish capital, he mounts the saddle for a winter gallop to Tehran, dashing with his Tâtar guides over snow-clad hills and swampy plains. No obstacle seems to have daunted the adventurer or his hardy companions.

Tramp, tramp across the rocks they go,
Splash, splash across the ice;
Hurrah! the Tâtar rides apace,
Dost fear to ride with me?

The Tâtars have been often described, but the Soorajees, who act both as grooms and guides in the post-houses of Turkey, are less generally known:—

"Like the Tatars, they form a class quite as marked and distinct as that of our guards and coachmen in England,—or, more correctly to rank them, of hackney-coachmen, cabmen, and cads,—and of muleteers in Persia. Trained from childhood among the animals of which they have the care, they are good grooms and admirable riders; and, accustomed to take the road and brave exposure in all weathers, they become bold, intrepid, and skilful guides in the lines of country where they ply. Their appearance is as peculiar as their character, though it is rather in air than in costume."

"A more useful, dashing, hard-working, purpose-like set of blackguards than these same impudent Soorajees in their own vocation, are not to be found; and were you to meet such a party as ours was, making the best of a bit of good road, the two Soorajees in their smart jackets, mounted on their little nags, ragged and tough like themselves, with their short stirrups, and knees almost up to their breasts, like monkeys astride upon terriers; each with bridle hanging loosely from the left hand, and the thong that guides the two load-horses held out with an air in the other; the head erect, but inclined a little to one side, as the owner casts back a look, first at their loads and then at their feet, as they pelt away at the top of their speed, but never deigning at his own, which he knows will take care of itself; the Tatar, in his gorgeous habilliment, and whip raised on high, following like a tower of strength, a perfect contrast to the slim lightness of the others, 'yahullahing' it away to a running bass of blows, his horse scattering showers of mud and gravel from each hoof as he scours along; were you to see this vision tearing like

the wild hunter and train over hill and down dale, along the mountain-side and across the level plain, you would say it was a gallant sight, and that these imps of Soorajees are a splendid set of rascals; verily, *tehelebec*, on these occasions, in his sober surtout or cloak, and travelling cap, cuts the poorest figure of the party.

"This however, is when all is going on well. But if you would see the true value of the Soorajee, look at him in times of danger and exertion; when the snow is deep, when the road is lost, when the load-horses stick in the mud, or flounder over head and ears in the snow; or roll, luggage and all, down a hill-face, carrying the snow with them like an avalanche. See then the fellows spring from their nags, plunge into the mud or snow, extricate the fallen animals and set them on their legs, or relieve them of their burthens, carrying the luggage on their own shoulders to firmer and safer ground; and when you have witnessed their vigour and alertness in spite of drifting snow and freezing fingers, you will confess, as I did to myself, that no men on earth could be more suited for their work, or do it better, than these same Turkish Soorajees."

There are several sketches, a little too much in the Ostade style, of the interior of posting-houses and the accommodations provided for travellers. One scene will excite the wonder of those who are accustomed to bowing waiters, obsequious chambermaids, and the ubiquity of the Puck of our English hotels, usually denominated "Boots;" it is only necessary to premise that the time is the Ramazan, or Mohammedan Lent, when it is not lawful for the faithful to taste food before the setting of the sun:—

"Scarcely were we settled for the night when the voice of the Muezzin, from a neighbouring mosque, announced that to satisfy the cravings of nature was no longer a sin. A fresh bustle took place, and the room was instantly filled, but with more of order than usual. We on the raised platforms kept our seats and our mattresses, with the Tatar at our feet; on the one side of the fire, which was lower, sat the postmaster and an old man with a white beard, below whom was the head Soorajee, a tall, strong-featured fellow, in a huge turban, monstrous shulwars, and a well-worn jacket that had once been gay; the rest, to the number of six or eight, 'ragged and tough' enough, and exhibiting a plentiful variety of grotesque physiognomy, ranging from that of the ape and the fox to that of the bear and the bull, took their seats in order below, while several of the still lower menials assumed a standing post at the foot of the apartment, or flitted about in service of the goodly company.

"A portion of coffee was next extracted from the breeches pocket of mine host, and duly prepared by a most squalid old wretch, with a ragged garment and a rusty beard; and, in the mean time, the little dinner stool, or table, was placed before the postmaster, with a tray bearing what I thought but a scanty supply of food for such a company. To work, however, they fell, and soon made a clearance of the dishes, which, tray and all, were taken down to be licked clean by the menials. So ended scene the first.

"The second was that of evening prayers. Two of the Soorajees, without 'with your leave or by your leave,' jumping up upon the lower part of the bench or platform where we sat, threw down their rug, and *sans* further ceremony began their *namâz*. It was soon over, for they got through it professionally,—that is, at the gallop,—and jumping down again, were succeeded by another brace, who performed their devotions in like manner; and so on till all had gone through the motions with equal unction and solemnity; the rest rattling, talking and swearing and abusing each other, as circumstances led them, all the while. At length up rose our old host himself

and took his place with a youth, probably his son, who enunciated the whole formula aloud, the father following the movements and attitudes with much apparent zeal. And so finished scene the second.

"In fact, I believed that the business of the evening, all except smoking a pipe or two, was at an end; but I was mistaken. No sooner had the old man resumed his seat, than in came stool and tray again, and this time much better loaded than before. The first supply of food had been but a sort of slight breakfast, it appeared—a whet, to prepare the delicate stomachs of these *gourmands* for the full feast, and a solid one it was which was now produced. Dish after dish came and went as usual; and come what might, they were sure to be well cleaned out before they left the place, and, no doubt, all was the sweeter from the conviction that it was enjoyed principally at our expense. But the sweetest joys must have an end, and so must a Soorajee's feast. Repletion provokes to rest; a little more smoking and a little more gabbling, and all was still—still even to the huge dog, which was permitted to remain in the room (an unusual thing in a Turkish family), and whose occasional lazy growls sunk gradually into silence."

Bad, however, as were the accommodations in the post-houses of Turkey and Armenia, they were complete luxuries when compared with the dens or burrows of Koordistan: the few comforts which the population ever possessed have been swept away in the wars between Turkey and Persia; and the Russians in the late contest brought up the rear of destruction, by utterly depopulating both town and country, depriving both of all means of renovation, pillaging the little that had been collected since past misfortunes, and wantonly destroying everything which they could not carry away:—

"Perhaps it may be because the injuries they have sustained from Russia are the most recent, as well as because they were inflicted by *koffers*, unbelievers, that the Koords seem to abhor them most. Most obvious indeed was this smothered hatred, although the people generally, and their chiefs in particular, are too proud to give vent to complaints which can only betray their weakness. I found all the great people I spoke to rather shy upon the subject—it was too painful to bear its being touched upon; but many of the inferiors, particularly those who could converse in Persian, spoke out, and described with much energy how bitter were the feelings of the Koords, though restrained by a consciousness of their own weakness. Who indeed can look upon the ruins of Bayazeed, and doubt that the hearts of every Koord and Armenian must burn for the insults they have suffered at the hands of Paskevitch and his myrmidons."

In his passage over the snowy hills, or rather mountains, of Koordistan, Mr. Fraser found that the Persian muleteers were worthy rivals of the Turkish Soorajees. Having, after immense fatigue, worked his way up a track which a caravan had opened over a lofty mountain, the regular road through the valley being buried in snow, the descent threatened to be one of extreme peril:—

"I am certain we came sheer down an interrupted mountain-side of full three thousand feet in height, upon a little hollow, rather than a valley, of unbroken snow, in which lay a village like a black-winged bat sleeping in a nest of eider down. It was one of the severest things I ever had to do. There was no riding—my saddle came twice over the horse's neck in the attempt, and then I gave it up. It was just one long slipping and scrambling match the whole way down; and I got half-a-dozen severe tumbles to help my poor wretched back, by the heels

of my clumsy boots sliding from under me on the old frozen snow.

"We stopped awhile to put ourselves to rights and take breath, at the bottom; and often as I have had occasion to admire the courage of Persian muleteers, I never did so more than at this moment, when, still panting with the exertion of merely descending, I looked back, and measuring the height from which we had stooped, reflected what the first ascent must have been. The caravan which opened this track had come from Khoee, and when they reached this little valley, and observed the state of the snow, knowing that the defile must be impassable, had taken the bold resolution of breasting up this precipitous acclivity, which even when free from snow would be considered as a desperate attempt. What, then, must the performance of it have been, when the embarrassed animals had to flounder upwards shoulder-deep in tough snow?—when not a moment could pass without loads falling and going wrong; horses and mules tumbling into holes, sinking, giving up, and all the other exciting occurrences incident to such a struggle against difficulties that are often insurmountable even in the plain?"

On the frontiers of Persia the popular voice was generally directed against Russian aggressions; but when these were passed, the theme of almost every tongue was the tyranny and rapacity of the Shahzadehs, or princes of the blood-royal. Futeh Ali Sháh, as is generally known, quite rivalled old Priam in the extent of his family, and provided for his sons and grandsons by delegating to them the government of provinces. Most of them have acted in such a way as to render the dynasty of the Kajars odious throughout Irán; and the present king of Persia has not only to contend with the open hostility of his uncles and brothers, but also with the hatred which their misconduct has excited against the whole Kajar tribe. The following anecdote of Jehangeer Mirza, brother of the reigning Persian monarch, was confirmed by Mr. Fraser, from a variety of sources:—

"A sooltaun, or captain in one of the regular regiments of Azerbaijan, and a favourite with Abbas Meerza on account of certain important services he had performed, had received from that prince, on his return home, a remission of the government dues upon his village, to either the whole or half their amount, which was about four hundred tomanas. But Jehangeer Meerza, who was left governor of the province in the absence of his father and brother, so far from paying regard to this document, sent to levy the full demand. The order was resisted, upon the plea of the Prince Royal's acquaintance; but Jehangeer, who wanted money, sent certain gholams to enforce payment. Their insolence in executing this duty so exasperated not only the sooltaun but the villagers, that they rose on the gholams, and beat and drove them from the place. But Jehangeer was not the man to permit resistance of his orders; he resolved to inflict a signal punishment; and on pretext of considering the village (which was in the district of Selmás) in rebellion, he sent a detachment of troops with certain of his confidential officers, who surrounded the place, and took prisoners the whole family of the sooltaun, except himself, who, with one wife and a child, escaped on a powerful horse to the country of the Hakkarée Koords, close by. The rest, with the chief of the villagers, and their wives and families, were all carried prisoners to Khoee, their houses and properties being plundered or destroyed. Arrived at Khoee, and brought before the prince, he ordered the whole party to be divided into three lots—the men, the women, and the children separately. The heads of the former were struck off at once; the females, after being given over to the soldiery and furoshes, were likewise put to death, or had their lives spared secretly by being made slaves of: accounts differ as to the treatment of the children; but you may imagine that the tender mercy evinced towards them partook of that displayed towards their parents. The sooltaun lives to feel and to revenge, no doubt, at a fitting time, the massacre of his family."

Notwithstanding the state of the roads and the inconveniences of Turkish posting, Mr. Fraser

performed the first seven hundred miles, from Constantinople to Amasia, in six days; the remainder of the journey occupied rather more than seven weeks, and was perhaps never surpassed in fatigue, anxiety, and sufferings from cold and exposure. Indeed, several travellers were lost in the wastes and snow-drifts of Koor-distan, at the very time when Mr. Fraser, by his courage and caution, succeeded in effecting a passage. On revisiting Tehran, after an interval of twelve years, it was to be expected that Mr. Fraser would have found great changes; but he could scarcely have anticipated the complete disorganization of the government, produced by the death of Abbas Mirza, and the mental weakness, almost amounting to incapacity, exhibited by Futeh Ali, towards the close of his reign. It seemed as if "there were no king in Israel, every man did that which was right in his own eyes;" while the host of Shahzadehs, revelling in brutal tyranny and disgusting debauchery, openly announced new calamities to their unhappy country, by threatening to dispute the succession. We feel no inclination to enter into any analysis of the miserable intrigues which disturbed the palace of the dying Shah, and embittered his last hours. Like our author, we felt relieved on quitting the precincts of a dull and degraded court, and undertaking a new journey to Khorassan,—especially as we had pleasing recollections of having, some twelve years ago, followed Mr. Fraser

Through that delightful province of the sun,
The first of Persia's lands he shines upon.

But Khorassan has now little reason to boast of its beauty,—the frontiers constantly swept by robber-hordes of Toorkomans—the interior distracted by civil wars—the whole plundered by the Shahzadehs,—it is surprising that even the nominal authority of the Shah continues. At Meymeid, Mr. Fraser was obliged to halt until a guard could be prepared to escort him farther. This insecurity of the roads was generally and justly attributed to the mad misrule of Ismael Meerza of Bostam.

At Muzzinoon, Mr. Fraser met the best of the descendants of Futeh Ali Sháh, in morals, private character, and, if not in talents, in the industry that may well supply their place, we mean Mohammed Meerza, the reigning monarch of Persia. The following account of the prince is, at the present moment, interesting:—

"In appearance the Prince has less to recommend him than many others of his very handsome race. He is stout—rather too much so; his features approaching coarseness, but well provided with that marking family attribute, the beard. He speaks thick, and, as one might be apt to think, somewhat affectedly; but his tone is pleasant, and I at least found him gracious and smiling in his manner, void of all that blustering assumption of greatness which is so offensive in many of the royal family. I believe, indeed, it is the Prince's nature to be gracious; but at this particular time it was his interest to conciliate the English; and though I carefully avoided and disclaimed all pretensions to an official character, his knowledge that I had brought out despatches to the Envoy, and was soon to return to England, rendered him naturally desirous to show me favour. Receiving me at all, indeed, under all circumstances, after a fatiguing march, with the business of the succeeding day to arrange, and a march of twenty-eight miles in prospect for the morning, was a strong proof of his good will. The audience was unusually long, although, as the Prince entered on no topics of business, the subjects of interest were limited; and, in fact, his rapid manner of utterance rendered it rather difficult for a stranger to follow him; and I was more than once forced to put his highness to the trouble of repeating his words.

"He inquired much about the members both of the late and of the present administration in England, particularly about the Duke of Wellington, and what he was doing: of the powers of Europe, how they stood with each other; of the war in Portugal

and Spain. He praised the province of Khorassan; entered into a sort of discussion regarding its superiority to Azerbaijan and Irák, which I rather questioned; and in short he did what a prince so placed might do to support a conversation which paucity of subject on the one hand, and deference, combined with a lack of facility in expression on the other, tended to render heavy. At last, darkness having closed in, the hour of prayer came to his relief, and he dismissed me, saying, that he must retire to his devotions."

After this interview Mr. Fraser proceeded to Mushed the Holy, of which he has given so interesting an account in his former travels; but the sad change which he saw in this great metropolis of the Sheah faith, far exceeded all that he had yet witnessed. The ruins of most of the public and private buildings were sad objects of contemplation, but they faintly typified the intense misery of the inhabitants.

"Old men and women in the most abject states of want, and wretchedness, and sickness, pressed upon us at every step, beseeching for relief in the name of all the Imams; but what was that—what was all the misery of manhood, or even of age, to the sufferings of withering childhood and helpless infancy? The way was actually strewn with creatures that could not, many of them, be more than from three to four years old; not standing or sitting by the wayside, but grovelling in the dust and dirt, naked, like the vermin we were treading under foot. Living skeletons they were; more like the starved young of animals than human creatures; there they lay, strewn in the very paths, so that you could scarcely help trampling on them; some crying and sending forth piteous petitions, with their little half-quenched voices, for help—for bread! others silent, lying like dead things, or only giving symptoms of life by the sobs that would now and then issue from their little breasts, or the shudders of pain that shook their wasted frames. Some sat listless and motionless, with half-closed eyes, and countenances on which death seemed already to have put his seal; while the wolf-like glare from the sunken eyes of others, gave terrible evidence of the pangs of hunger which gnawed them. Many of these wretched little creatures could not, as I have said, be more than from three to four years old; yet, though hardly able to speak, and left at that infantile age, alone in the world, to live or to die—deprived, by accident or famine, of all relatives, misery and want seemed to have sharpened their faculties to an astonishing degree of precocity, for you heard them squeaking out sounds which conveyed a petition for food."

Several of these unfortunate beings, but not all, were the wives and children of the Toorkomans, who were killed at Serrakhs, when that place was taken and sacked by the Prince Royal, in the year 1830. Many were the ills which the Serrakhees inflicted on the Persians, but lingering, dreadful and indiscriminate, has been the retribution. An incident, connected with the prisoners taken at Serrakhs, is highly honourable to the character of the late Abbas Meerza, and shows how great a loss his premature death was, not only to Persia but central Asia.

"Dr. Gerrard, who was at Mushed when the prisoners were brought in, recognized among them a young man, who had been the instrument of preserving the liberty, if not the lives, of Capt. Burnes and himself. It appears, that during the passage of these gentlemen through the Desert, from Bokkhará to Mushed, it had been deliberated in this young man's tribe, whether they should be seized or permitted to pass; upon which he instantly stepped forward, drew his sword and said, that if the slightest molestation was to be offered to these persons it must be after putting him to death, for that he was pledged for their safety, and would redeem his pledge should it cost him his life. Macneil, without hesitation, applied to the Prince Royal for the release of the individual, as a boon that would be very gratifying to his Royal Highness's English friends, and which might prove the cause of saving lives in future similar cases, and the Prince at once complied. Some time afterwards Macneil saw the young man along with Dr. Gerrard, and congratulated him on

Khorrassan; his superior rather than a question of place; the paucity of his means, combined with the other, his relief, and retire to his

proceeded to give so many travels; but a great deal of the most of the objects of his

subject states of the name of what was all to the sufferer's infancy; features that from three

being near the frontiers of Khorrassan, Mr. Fraser felt great curiosity to visit some *obahs* or villages of the Toorkomans, but found that the Persian authorities were by no means inclined to aid him in so perilous an expedition. Luckily he was acquainted with the officers of a division that had been ordered to march against one of the tribes; and was allowed to accompany the army. The disputes with the Toorkomans were accommodated, and, during the negotiations, Mr. Fraser gained an opportunity of making a hasty tour through some of the Toorkoo encampments. During his hurried visit, he could gain little addition to the information respecting these tribes communicated by Conolly, Burnes, and Gerrard; he was, indeed, prevented from extensive observation, as well by the perils of the road, as by their rude notions of hospitality. Having eaten heartily at one *obah*, he was detained at another, scarcely a mile distant, to participate in a second feast.

The mode in which the Toorkomans provide lodgings for their guests is curious:—

"In the course of half an hour, as we sat under our shade, we observed one of their wooden houses proceeding, as if self-moved, along the plain, from a distant cluster, and approaching to where we were. But as this singular phenomenon came near, we detected the twinkle of many feet beneath it, and discovered that it was our friend the Beg, who, with half a dozen people, was thus bringing an old house upon his shoulders for our private accommodation; and there they placed it, right in the middle of the plain, just as you would put a bell-glass over a plant—all tight and ready; and into it straight we walked, and found it a most comfortable concern. The black felt walls were lifted a little from the ground on all sides, to admit the soft breeze, and there we were at once pleasantly housed."

The Toorkomans compel their wives to perform most of the laborious tasks in the house or in the field, which usually, in other countries, fall to the share of men. Their marriage customs are very singular, and unlike those of the other Mohammedan nations.

"The Toorkomans do not shut up their women; and there being no such restraint on the social intercourse between the sexes as in most Mussulman countries, love matches are common. A youth becomes acquainted with a girl; they are mutually attached, and agree to marry. But the young man does not dare to breathe his wishes to the parents of his beloved, for such is not etiquette, and would be treated as an insult. What then does he do? He

elopes with the girl, and carries her to some neighbouring *obah*, where, such is the custom, there is no doubt of a kind reception; and there the young people live as man and wife for some six weeks, when the Reish-suffeds, or elders of the protecting *obah*, deem it time to talk over the matter with the parents. Accordingly, they represent the wishes of the young couple, and, joined by the elders of the father's *obah*, endeavour to reconcile him to the union, promising, on the part of the bridegroom, a handsome *bashlogue*, or price, for his wife. In due time the consent is given; on which the bride returns to her father's house, where, strange to say, she is retained for six months or a year, and sometimes two years, according, as it appears, to her caprice or the parents' will, having no communication with her husband, unless by stealth. The meaning of this strange separation I never could ascertain. People said that it was allowed to the bride as time to prepare her outfit; but this they admitted was not the true cause. It seems to be a period of freedom given to her by custom, previous to her resigning her liberty for ever, and lapsing into the slavish condition of a Toorkoman's wife; and they do not scruple to affirm that it is made use of by these young ladies for the worst and most abandoned purposes. Afterwards, the marriage presents and price of the wife are interchanged, and she goes finally to live with her husband."

Not only do the Toorkomans professedly live by plunder, but, as they have no hereditary nobility, success in a foray is the only road to dignity.

"A young fellow, pricked by ambition or the desire of plunder, proclaims a chuppow, or plundering party. He ties a flag to his spear, sticks it in the ground before his tent, picks his horse, all prepared on one side, and sits ready accoutred on the other, and calls for volunteers to join his purposed expedition. This being the customary preliminary attracts attention, and some one soon comes forward to inquire about it, and asks who is to be the *bellat*, or guide; the aspirant answers, 'Me!' Then come the questions of, 'What do you know about the country?' 'Who knows you as a leader?' 'What claims have you to our confidence?' If these inquiries are answered in a satisfactory manner, he is sure to muster a party, according to the prospects of success. If these are realized, and a handsome booty obtained, he at once gains a name, which if he is fortunate enough to maintain by an exhibition of prudence and gallantry, he can at all times be sure of commanding a strong party for a chuppow, and thus becomes a *sirdar*, or leader, a title only to be won by valour and merit. Such *sirdars*, when old, become *ak-sakals*, or elders, (white beards literally,) and counsellors of the tribe."

After leaving the Toorkomans, Mr. Fraser found it necessary to return to Tehran; his journey was long, perilous, and fatiguing; in consequence he was seized with a severe fever soon after he reached the city, but scarcely had he recovered, when he was once more "in saddle," to follow the English embassy to Tabreez. It is not our purpose to dwell on his melancholy ride through the provinces of Mazenderaan and Ghilaun, which tyranny and the cholera have joined to devastate; a brief extract from the account of the once flourishing town of Resht, will sufficiently illustrate the state of the country.

"Resht, like the rest of Ghelaan, is but the ghost, or rather the scarcely animated skeleton of what it was. The first morning after my arrival, two persons, one of whom had known me of old, came to call. When I inquired of this person about my old friends, his answer was, 'Ask about no one, for no one remains.' 'Well, but if my friends are gone, I want to see or hear of their relations, their descendants, sons, brothers.'—'There are none remaining—all are gone.'—'But their houses, I want to see my old haunts—the places where I used to sit and converse, when I was a guest, with the owners—where people were kind to me.'—'They, too, are gone—all are in ruins—you would not know the places; and if you think of going to walk by the water side as you used to do, don't attempt it, for

you won't recognize a single spot; all is waste or overrun with jungle.'"

Mr. Fraser terminates the present portion of his travels with an account of his return to Tabreez, promising, in a future work, to describe his tour through the provinces of Koordistan and Mesopotamia, which, for the most part, were previously unvisited by Europeans. From an author so long and so favourably known to the public, an account of lands rich in the remains of remote antiquity, and not less attractive in their living inhabitants, the Koordish and Arab tribes, cannot fail to be highly interesting; but it will hardly surpass the volumes before us in lively delineations, rapid but graphic sketches, and the excitement of travelling over strange ground, with a guide equally remarkable for the extent of his good-humour and the depth of his information.

Studies on Political Economy—[*Etudes, &c. &c.*] By J. C. L. Simonde de Sismondi. Paris, Treuttel & Würtz; London, Black & Young. *Democracy in Modern Communities*. Translated from the French of M. Guizot. C. & H. Senior.

WHEN Sismondi's work was received, we had so recently taken occasion to speak of the author and his philosophy (*Athenæum*, Nos. 481–2), that we resolved to let it pass without comment. Circumstances, however, have lately given to both more importance than we think either deserves. Those who remember our former articles, must have seen that the new doctrine, as it is called, of M. Guizot, some time since referred to in this paper, (see *Athenæum*, No. 528,) is but another version of Sismondi's. Guizot's *brochure* has, however, directed a good deal of attention towards the political philosophy of the new school:—the translation before us is the third already published in this country. It may be well, therefore, to revert once again to the fountain-head of these sophisms; and with this intention we have fallen back on the 'Studies of Political Economy.'

M. Sismondi's peculiarities of reasoning and thinking are sufficiently well known to scientific readers. These, it may be remembered, we heretofore attempted to trace in a certain degree to the circumstances of his position, circumstances favourable to the gentler affections, and to the charities of life, but predisposing to the cultivation of book-learning rather than of worldly experience—of words preferably to things. Of this latter tendency he appears to be himself insensible: for, in the volume before us, he complains of the abstract mode in which political economists are accustomed to treat their subject; and he professes to found his own doctrines on the observed workings of different nations. But he does not the less habitually regard his facts from a point of view so general, that he frequently either fails in seeing all that they really exhibit, or, on the contrary, places more in his conclusions than the premises warrant.

His present volume is, in some sort, a continuation of the former work on the Constitution of Free Nations. M. Sismondi has, in his time, been an industrious writer of pamphlets, and of articles in scientific journals; and he has lately been pressed, by "request of friends," to collect and reprint these *disjecta membra*. In setting about to comply with the wish thus expressed, he has found the task of re-modelling and re-writing easier than that of correction; and, accordingly, has preferred reproducing his amended second thoughts in a series of new works,—each independent of the other, as concerns its especial subject,—but all in a mutual dependence, as respects the general suite and connexion of the ideas. Thus, although political economy be a theme which touches constitutional science in but few points, and though his present volume, consequently, may be regarded as a separate and

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a substantive production, still the genesis of its ideas is based upon opinions, which are equally at the bottom of the reasonings in its predecessor.

The train of thought in each essay, arises in a feeling of mortification and disappointment at the actual condition of society, among the nations which have been governed on constitutional principles;—in an honest man's indignation at the crimes which have been committed in the name of liberty,—and in a sympathizing and benevolent sorrow for the sufferings of the labouring classes, which the most liberal legislatures have not yet been enabled to reach, and to remedy. These imperfections, (inseparable, perhaps, from the first attempts of man in every department,) Sismondi attributes to inherent defects in the theories of speculative philosophers; to errors of principle, rather than of application and practice; and he imagines that the fortunes of posterity depend, not on putting nascent institutions into a more perfect harmony with the principles from which they flow, and with each other,—but on an abandonment of existing doctrines, and the discovery of a totally new philosophy. Thus, in his former publication, he took it for granted that the popular principle of a representation co-extensive with taxation, had been proved by experience to be a failure; and he set up in its place the Utopian system of a representation founded on intelligence, and excluding the untaught multitude, which, so far as we can understand it, is the old theory of the *Doctrinaire* school, and the new one of M. Guizot. So, in the present work, he thinks that he has detected the cause of proletarian misery, which has grown with the growing development of commerce, to the principle of free trade, which he denounces as mischievous and untenable; but not having anything at hand that he can conveniently substitute for it, he pauses there, leaving the question in its most essential particular unanswered.

From this simple and concise statement of the scope of these works, it must, we think, be evident, that a tendency to hasty generalization is M. Sismondi's besetting sin; and its natural consequence, (the holding of incompatible opinions,) comes to the surface, after the perusal of a very few of his pages. Had M. Sismondi been a less ardent and impetuous reasoner, he would have perceived that, in his first work, he was only reproducing, in a new form, the old despotic assertions, that the masses are incapable of self-government, and repeating, in the teeth of experience, that the *soi-disant* intelligent portion of the nation is both able and willing to govern well for them; and he would have seen that he had himself refuted these propositions in his previous admission, that the unrepresented are always liable to be oppressed by the represented. He would, in the perception of this fundamental disagreement in his own ideas, have gone back over his ground, and would probably have satisfied himself that he had overlooked a large portion of the field of his inquiry, and that his experience was one continued fallacy, from the omission of many of the most material facts.

Precisely the same error has been committed in the volume now under discussion, which treats of that part of political economy relating to the distribution of wealth. We must, however, acknowledge that M. Sismondi has not taken alarm at trifles. It is a lamentable and an appalling truth, that, hitherto, every development of social life, every improvement in the useful arts, and every increase in the means of enjoyment, have tended to the accumulation of wealth in fewer and larger masses, and a corresponding deterioration in the condition of the labouring many. Painful as these truths are to a well-conditioned mind, we still think

that they need not have led such a man as M. Sismondi in so great a hurry to distrust the doctrines of his brightest contemporary economists; and to cast himself into the train of those no-reasoners, who run up and down the world to decry the Ricardos and the Malthuses, and to extol to the skies, as the sole sure guide in political philosophy, the golden rule of our forefathers, the rule of thumb. In the coarse and vulgar errors of these calumniators, M. Sismondi is not a participator; and the bare fact of his having been drawn into their ranks, ought to have awakened in his mind some doubts of the legitimacy of his own conclusions.

Stricken to the heart with the continued spread of misery, M. Sismondi confounds the fact of occasional gluts in particular markets, with a general over-production of all things; he asserts (for he cannot prove) that this over-production is an inevitable result of free trade, and, moreover, that it is the cause of that growing inequality of fortunes which threatens modern civilization with a sudden and a complete overthrow. Now, in all this, we see nothing but one uninterrupted series of misapprehensions, a thorough mistake in the premises, a perpetual iteration of the *what is not for what is* cause, ending in a *cul de sac* conclusion, from which there is no escape: and this in itself should be a sufficient warning of an error in some link of the chain of argument. We imagine that if M. Sismondi had written his book in England, instead of the solitude of a continental country town, he would have been compelled to acknowledge that the grand assumption of his syllogism was the contrary of truth. So far from unlimited freedom of rivalry in trade having, in this country, been a cause of the condition of the working classes, that principle, we regret to say, has never been sufficiently acted upon; and the men most conversant with the subject attribute a great portion at least of our ruinous revulsions in trade to the numberless exceptions which still are maintained to this very rule. It need not, indeed, have required a journey to London to bring to recollection the corn laws of England, as a standing and all-pervading exception to unlimited freedom of trade; and the author expressly admits and deprecates that increasing rents are a powerful cause of the increasing inequality of European fortunes.

There is another set of assumed facts, in which we think M. Sismondi considerably in error.

We have infinite difficulty (he says) in conceiving a social organization different from our own, and in understanding an age in which we have not ourselves lived. The mere monuments, however, of a country sometimes speak a language which cannot be mistaken. Those which surround me, on the spot where I am writing, revive the past with a force, that brings it home to the imagination. In Italy, from the most opulent town to the poorest village, there is scarcely a house that is not superior to the condition of its present inhabitants; not a house which is not superior to the demand of such of its inhabitants of our day, as are of the same class with those who built it; and that, too, even in the most prosperous districts. Genoa the superb, the city of palaces, was built by commerce; but count the commercial palaces of Paris and London, and add to these, if you like it, those of the provinces, you will not find them all to equal in number those palaces which decorate a single city; nor discover one, that equals them in their imposing character of grandeur and magnificence.

After taking a similar view of the secondary cities, and the still smaller groupings of buildings termed "*castelli*," the author then turns to the rural population, and thus continues:—

On the cessation of feudalism, when the lord had no longer need of the peasant to defend him in his private wars, the villeins became the most oppressed class of the nation,—the class which alone conducted the agriculture of the country. Their condition was not everywhere alike. In France and England, the

number of *adscripti glebae* was small; the rest paid to the parson his tithe, to their lord their cense, their duty offerings, and their personal services; to the king they rendered their taxes and statute labour, which took the great part of their clear profits; but still the land was deemed their own. * * The house they inhabited was theirs and their children's; their property was in some measure guaranteed, if not their revenues. The feudal lord and the tax-gatherer, it is true, carried off the fruits of their industry; the king's troops lived on them at free quarters; but we must not confound this political oppression with the economical. As a citizen, the peasant was unprotected; as a labourer, he would not have been badly off. After having paid his dues, his tithe, and his just taxes, he would have had enough left to maintain him in abundance; and it was only because he had a superfluity, that he was exposed to such occasional extortions.

Setting aside the perpetual contradictions of detail in this curious extract, and looking only to the general argument, we think the inference drawn is not warranted by the statement. In the first place, as to the Genoese palaces, the Italian merchants had almost a monopoly of the commerce of the world; they were, with the merchants of the low countries, the only merchants of Europe. Besides, the palaces prove nothing. These were the especial want of the Italian climate,—the favourite luxury of the country. To maintain that the wealth, comfort, ease, and luxury of the commercial world, are not now a hundred-fold greater than they were in the fifteenth century, because of such palaces, is to set all evidence at defiance. Then, as to the relative condition of the cultivators of the earth; certainly, when population was thin, when inferior lands were uncultivated, capitals small, and rents low, the cultivator ought to have had a larger share of the produce, than he who lives when the opposite conditions prevail. But this has nothing to do with over-production; and if it had, the presumed relative opulence, (it must not be overlooked,) was still in fewer hands, and the sum of happiness much smaller. Less corn was produced, and fewer people were fed. Will any one, however, believe, that even in such parasitical days, of low rents and high wages, the exactions and oppressions above enumerated would really have left the people with full stomachs and warm clothing? All history proves the reverse; and all the stories of the golden days of good Queen Bess, and Henry the Fourth's pullet in the pot, are the dreams of visionaries.

This, we believe, to be a fair average specimen of the loose and inconsequential style of reasoning that pervades the volume, and vitiates all its conclusions.

Again, M. Sismondi lauds the effect of burgher corporations and trades unions, in keeping down the number of workmen, and keeping up the wages of labour; and he reasons upon that result as if it had not the effect of driving back upon agriculture the superfluous population seeking employment in the towns. Admitting what is notoriously contradicted by facts,—that it would make a handful of artisans rich, it must in the same proportion make the unskilled labourer poor; and, moreover, if it kept down production, it would keep down demand also. In one word, it must sacrifice the many to the few, and regulate all things not by their own eternal nature, but according to the capricious notions of the self-interested, respecting the wants of society.

That, in a particular state of civilization, trade corporations for self-protection were partially useful, and even necessary, (as exclusive municipalities were for political purposes,) no one will dispute; neither do we impugn the conclusion, that an ignorant and unprotected race of journeymen and labourers must go to the wall in a single-handed contention with capital and intelligence: but we hold that the actual distresses which have

fallen on the working classes in our own time, depend altogether on causes extrinsic to the present discussion. The author, for example, has dwelt at considerable length on the misery of the Irish peasant, and has drawn largely from good authorities; but here the inferiority of book-sought intelligence to the knowledge obtained from personal experience, becomes manifest. M. Sismondi, had he inquired for himself on the spot, would hardly have failed to perceive that Irish pauperism had nothing whatever to do with the metaphysics of political economy; but might be most satisfactorily explained on principles wholly political. In point of fact, the politico-economical phenomena of Ireland are the effects, and not the causes, of the social condition of the masses; except, indeed, in as far as these things tend to form themselves into a vicious circle of causes and effects. Bad government (in the largest sense of the term) preceded all science in Ireland. Science, when it arrived, found the people already pauperized and destitute; and the middle-men, the concave rents, inferior tillage, extensive grazing districts, &c. &c.—(we might fill a whole page with these *et cetera*.) are but necessitated consequences of a deficient capital, which bad government in the first instance occasioned, and which it has ever since perpetuated. This M. Sismondi should himself have perceived; for in contrasting the condition of the Tuscans with the Irish, he justly attributes the comparative happiness of the former to the better nature of their territorial holdings. How then is it, that in Ireland, the miserable tenure of the farmer has nothing to do with the state of agriculture? Political economy has not, as yet, operated there, for good or for evil, to any notable extent. Land has not been often, or largely, taken from the small tenants, to be better cultivated *en masse*, and upon scientific principles. So far from complicated machinery having supplanted human labour, the farming instruments have generally been of the worst possible description; and so far has science been from creating an over-production, that the land is very generally exhausted from ill-treatment; and the country would long ago have been a desert, had its inherent powers of fertility not been of the most superior description. Science, then, is not answerable for the misery of Ireland: on the contrary, it is especially in a part of the north of that country, where enterprise and intelligence have applied scientific principles, and introduced the most improved methods of industry, accompanied by a judicious system of encouragement to the honest and laborious tenant, that misery is on the decline.

In scientific investigations, the detection of an error is usually accompanied by the discovery of a truth. Had M. Sismondi, in assigning the misfortunes of the poor to over-production, "hit the right nail on the head," he would at the same time have discovered a means of remedying the evil. On that subject, however, he says,—

If I presented a remedy for the actual evils of society, criticism would abandon the considerations of those evils to fall foul of my panacea, and the question of the balance of production and consumption would remain undecided. But I may state, that if I could obtain from the legislature all the changes I desire, I would not attempt to interfere with the progress of production, nor retard an application of the sciences to the arts and the invention of machines; I would seek only the means of assuring to the labourer the fruit of his toil, and to make the machine profitable to him that works it. Could I obtain this, I would trust to the self-interest of the producers for not making things for which there is no demand. [Need we point to what is now passing in the commercial world, as proof that there is but one sure method of teaching this lesson to producers, namely, by forcing them to produce at their own expense? Trading with borrowed capital, *i. e.* fictitious

bills, is the giant cause of those partial gluts which are perpetually recurring in our markets; while it contributes powerfully in aid of corn laws to enforce incessant efforts at cheap production, and its necessary accompaniment, low wages.] As long as the producer may be regarded as a single person, moved by a single interest, he will always be governed by the maxim, that it is better to be idle than to work for nothing; and all the facilities which can be afforded him will not induce him to over-production. [Privileges and bounties will have this effect.] He will repose, he will amuse himself when his work is done, whether that takes place in twelve or in two hours. It is the contradictory interests of the several parties which concur in production—between the masters and their journeymen which cause the gluts in our markets. The masters are induced to undertake a work, not because the consumer wants it, but because the workmen will consent to work at lower wages.

The task of conciliating these opposing interests rests with the legislator. It is difficult doubtless, but less so, I think, than might be imagined. Much would be done if legislatures could be prevented from acting in a contrary direction; if all the laws which impede the division of heritages, which encourage the accumulation of large fortunes, which hinder capital and land from flowing in small streams towards the actual labourer, were suppressed; if all laws were repealed which protect masters in their combinations against those they employ, and that deprive these of their natural means of resistance; but to enter on a detailed consideration of these laws or of others which might oblige the master to provide for the subsistence of his workmen, would be too long and difficult a task to be attempted in this work. It is sufficient to say that there is the spot where we would seek a remedy for the evils which society now suffers, and with which it is threatened hereafter.

What then is the consequence of this quotation? Why that the mischief is not where M. Sismondi has looked for it, in over-production, which is but an effect; that he has jumbled together the two sciences of politics and political economy, which philosophers have hitherto wisely and profitably separated; and further, that those political evils which he would (in a parenthesis) remedy, are mainly upheld by the educated (?) classes, to whom he would exclusively commit the work of legislation.

The distribution of wealth, as it concerns political economy, only regards the relations between capital and income, and the due reproduction and increase of the objects of human desire; its relations to the liberty and happiness of the species are altogether dependent upon other principles, and another order of facts. If M. Sismondi would contend that a scanty population, moderately skilled in the arts of life, moderately wealthy, and moderately productive, is happier and more virtuous than one in which the social movement is more rapid and extensive, we perhaps might be disposed to agree with him. But the elements of such combinations are too vast to be grasped by a human arm. The successive developments of society escape from man's control; and if by the last clause of the above quoted passage, the author alludes to laws tending to arrest the commercial career, and to Spartanize the world, we hold that such laws would only be powerful in producing universal misery and privation, and that they would not secure the end to which they were directed. We agree with the author, that laws of exclusion and privilege, favouring an unnatural agglomeration of wealth, are the curse of society; we hold that they cannot much longer be maintained; but we go further, and assert that these, together with the enormity of our taxation, our mistakes of colonial and international interests, our fictitious paper currency, and the prevalent notions of selling to those from whom we will not buy, are at the bottom of all that is charged by M. Sismondi, and by a small section of a political party at

home, against the economists, or, as our author calls them, the chrematistics. Whatever there is of truth in this volume, (and many of M. Sismondi's positions, as partial truths, are accurate enough,) becomes error, by being thus referred to false causes, and being charged as an ultimate result of economical combinations, with which they are only incidentally connected. This it is that has induced us to extend this article to so disproportionate a length. It is vexatious to find so fine, so imaginative, and so benevolent a mind as M. Sismondi possesses, employed in strengthening the prejudices of the ignorant, in affording the semblance of reasons to a passionate and unreflecting tribe of clamourers, and, (maugre all his aristocratical fears of the political predominance of brute force,) in hallooing on a few anarchists to impede the march of good and useful reform. He is desirous to establish the sway of the maximum intelligence of nations, and yet he is appealing to the passions of the merest ignorance: and if, moreover, all his positions were as true as they are in reality erroneous, they would lead to no practical result: for where could he look for a bulwark to protect the poor from the rich, if the uninstructed labouring classes were, as he desires, unrepresented, or, what comes to the same thing, ineffectually represented? But further, allowing, for the sake of the argument, the force of his reasoning, and admitting that ignorance ought to have no voice in legislation, it does not exclusively exist among the operative classes:—and the conclusion of the whole *doctrinaire* premises is not to exclude, but to educate: let us, then, begin with education, and that, too, wherever it is wanted—with the highest as well as with the lowest.

The Arabian Nights' Entertainments: with Copious Notes by E. W. Lane.

[Third Notice.]

We continue our extracts, assured that they will be welcome to our readers.

On Meals, and the Manner of Eating.

"The Muslim takes a light breakfast after the morning-prayers, and dinner after the noon-prayers; or a single meal instead of these two, before noon. His principal meal is supper, which is taken after the prayers of sunset. A man of rank or wealth, when he has no guest, generally eats alone; his children eat after him, or with his wife or wives. In all his repasts he is moderate with regard to the quantity which he eats, however numerous the dishes. In the times to which most of the tales in the present work relate, it appears that the dishes were sometimes, I believe generally, placed upon a round embroidered cloth spread on the floor, and sometimes on a tray, which was either laid on the floor or upon a small stand or stool. The last is the mode now always followed in the houses of the higher and middle classes of the Arabs. The table is usually placed upon a round cloth, spread in the middle of the floor, or in a corner, next two of the deewans, or low seats which generally extend along three sides of the room. It is composed of a large round tray of silver, or of tinned copper, or of brass, supported by a stool, commonly about fifteen or sixteen inches high, made of wood, and generally inlaid with mother-of-pearl, tortoise-shell, &c. When there are numerous guests, two or more such tables are prepared. The dishes are of silver, or of tinned copper, or of china. Several of these are placed upon the tray; and around them are disposed some round, flat cakes of bread, with spoons of box-wood, ebony, or other material, and, usually, two or three limes, cut in halves, to be squeezed over certain of the dishes. When these preparations have been made, each person who is to partake of the repast receives a napkin; and a servant pours water over his hands. A basin and ewer of either of the metals first mentioned are employed for this purpose; the former has a cover with a receptacle for a piece of soap in its centre, and with numerous perforations through which the water runs during the act of washing, so that it is not seen when

the basin is brought from one person to another. It is indispensably requisite to wash at least the right hand before eating, with the fingers, anything but dry food; and the mouth, also, is often rinsed, the water being taken up into it from the right hand. The company sit upon the floor, or upon cushions, or some of them on the dewān, either cross-legged, or with the right knee raised: they retain the napkins before mentioned; or a long napkin, sufficient to surround the tray, is placed upon their knees; and each person, before he begins to eat, says, 'In the name of God,' or, 'In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.' The master of the house begins first: if he did not so, some persons would suspect that the food was poisoned. The thumb and two fingers of the right hand serve instead of knives and forks; and it is the usual custom for a person to help himself to a portion of the contents of a dish by drawing it towards the edge, or taking it from the edge, with a morsel of bread, which he eats with it: when he takes too large a portion for a single mouthful, he generally places it on his cake of bread. He takes from any dish that pleases him; and sometimes a host hands a delicate morsel with his fingers to one of his guests. (It is not allowable to touch food with the left hand as it is used for unclean purposes), excepting in a few cases, when both hands are required to divide a joint. * * With respect to clean and unclean meats, the Muslim is subject to nearly the same laws as the Jew. Swine's flesh and blood are especially forbidden to him; but camel's flesh is allowed. The latter, however, being of a coarse nature, is never eaten when any other meat can be obtained, excepting by persons of the lower classes, and by Arabs of the desert. Of fish, almost every kind is eaten (excepting shell-fish), usually fried in oil: of game, little; partly in consequence of frequent doubt whether it have been lawfully killed. The diet consists, in a great measure, of vegetables, and includes a large variety of pastry. A very common kind of pastry is a pancake, which is made very thin, and folded over several times like a napkin; it is saturated with butter, and generally sweetened with honey or sugar; as is also another common kind, which somewhat resembles vermicelli.

"The usual beverage at meals is water, which is drunk from cooling, porous, earthen bottles, or from cups of brass or other metal: but in the houses of the wealthy, sherbet is sometimes served instead of this, in covered glass cups, each of which contains about three quarters of a pint. The sherbet is composed of water made very sweet with sugar, or with a hard conserve of violets or roses or mulberries, &c. After every time that a person drinks, he says, 'Praise be to God;' and each person of the company says to him, 'May it benefit:' to which he replies, 'May God benefit thee.' The Arabs drink little or no water during a meal, but generally take a large draught immediately after. The repast is quickly finished; and each person, as soon as he has done, says 'Praise be to God,' or 'Praise be to God, the Lord of creatures.' He then washes, in the same manner as before, but more thoroughly; well lathering his beard, and rinsing his mouth."

On Sherbets.

"The Arabs have various kinds of sherbets, or sweet drinks; the most common of which is merely sugar and water, made very sweet. The most esteemed kind is prepared from a hard conserve of violets, made by pounding violet-flowers, and then boiling them with sugar. Other kinds are prepared from conserves of fruits, &c. The sherbet is served in covered glass cups, containing from two-thirds to three-quarters of an English pint; the same which I have described in a former note as used for wine. These are placed on a round tray, and covered with a round piece of embroidered silk, or cloth of gold; and on the right arm of the person who presents the sherbet, is hung a long napkin with a deep embroidered border of gold and coloured silks at each end, which is ostensibly offered for the purpose of wiping the lips after drinking, though the lips are seldom or scarcely touched with it."

On Hunting and Hawking.

"Hunting and hawking, which were common and favourite diversions of the Arabs, and especially of their kings and other great men, have now fallen into comparative disuse among this people. They are, however, still frequently practised by the Persians,

and in a manner the same as they are generally described in the present work. Sir John Malcolm was informed that these sports were nowhere found in greater perfection than in the neighbourhood of Aboo Shahr, where he witnessed and partook of them: I shall, therefore, here avail myself of his observations on this subject.

"The huntsmen," he says, 'proceed to a large plain, or rather desert, near the sea-side: they have hawks and greyhounds; the former carried in the usual manner, on the hand of the huntsman; the latter led in a leash by a horseman, generally the same who carries the hawk. When the antelope is seen, they endeavour to get as near as possible; but the animal, the moment it observes them, goes off at a rate that seems swifter than the wind: the horsemen are instantly at full speed, having slipped the dogs. If it is a single deer, they at the same time fly the hawks; but if a herd, they wait till the dogs have fixed on a particular antelope. The hawks, skimming along near the ground, soon reach the deer, at whose head they pounce in succession, and sometimes with a violence that knocks it over. [They are commonly described as picking at the poor creature's eyes until they blind it.] At all events, they confuse the animal so much as to stop its speed in such a degree that the dogs can come up with it; and, in an instant, men, horses, dogs, and hawks, surround the unfortunate deer, against which their united efforts have been combined. The part of the chase that surprised me most, was the extraordinary combination of the hawks and the dogs, which throughout seemed to look to each other for aid. This, I was told, was the result of long and skilful training.—The antelope is supposed to be the fleetest quadruped on earth; and the rapidity of the first burst of the chase I have described is astonishing. The run seldom exceeds three or four miles, and often is not half so much. A fawn is an easy victory; the doe often runs a good chase; and the buck is seldom taken. The Arabs are, indeed, afraid to fly their hawks at the latter, as these fine birds, in pouncing, frequently impale themselves on its sharp horns.—The hawks used in this sport are of a species that I have never seen in any other country. This breed, which is called Cherkh, is not large, but of great beauty and symmetry. * *

"The novelty of these amusements interested me, and I was pleased, on accompanying a party to a village, about twenty miles from Aboo Shahr, to see a species of hawking peculiar, I believe, to the sandy plains of Persia, on which the Hobāra, a noble species of bustard, is found on almost bare plains, where it has no shelter but a small shrub called 'geetuck.' When we went in quest of them, we had a party of about twenty, all well mounted. Two kinds of hawks are necessary for this sport; the first, the Cherkh (the same which is flown at the antelope), attacks them on the ground, but will not follow them on the wing; for this reason the 'Bhyree,' a hawk well known in India, is flown the moment the Hobāra rises.—As we rode along in an extended line, the men who carried the Cherkhs every now and then unhooded and held them up, that they might look over the plain. The first Hobāra we found afforded us a proof of the astonishing quickness of sight of one of the hawks: he fluttered to be loose, and the man who held him gave him a whoop as he threw him off his hand, and set off at full speed. We all did the same. At first we only saw our hawk skimming over the plain, but soon perceived, at a distance of more than a mile, the beautiful speckled Hobāra, with his head erect and wings outspread, running forward to meet his adversary. The Cherkh made several unsuccessful pounces, which were either evaded or repelled by the beak or wings of the Hobāra, which at last found an opportunity of rising, when a Bhyree was instantly flown, and the whole party were again at full gallop. We had a flight of more than a mile, when the Hobāra alighted, and was killed by another Cherkh, who attacked him on the ground. This bird weighed ten pounds. We killed several others, but were not always successful, having seen our hawks twice completely beaten, during the two days we followed this fine sport."

"The hunting of the wild ass is another sport of the Persians and Arabs, but one of a more difficult nature. This animal is found in Syria, and in the Nubian deserts, as well as in Arabia and Persia. The

more common kinds of game are gazelles, or antelopes, hares, partridges, the species of grouse called 'kata,' quails, wild geese, ducks, &c. Against all of these, the hawk is generally employed, but assisted in the capture of gazelles and hares by dogs. The usual arms of the sportsmen, in the times to which the present work relates, were the bow and arrow, the cross-bow, the spear, the sword, and the mace. When the game is struck down, but not killed, by any weapon, its throat is immediately cut. If merely stunned, and then left to die, its flesh is unlawful food. Some other laws respecting the killing of game have been mentioned in a former note; but one has been there omitted which is worthy of remark, though it is often disregarded; it is, that hunting is allowable only for the purpose of procuring food, or to obtain the skin of an animal, or for the sake of destroying ferocious and dangerous beasts. Amusement is certainly, in general, the main object of the Muslim huntsman; but he does not, with this view, endeavour to prolong the chase; on the contrary, he strives to take the game as quickly as possible; for this purpose, nets are often employed, and the hunting party, forming what is called the circle of the chase (halkat es-seyd), surround the spot in which the game is found."

On the Bath.

"The hammām, or bath, is a favourite resort of both men and women of all classes among the Muslims who can afford the trifling expense which it requires; and (it is said) not only of human beings, but also of evil genii; on which account, as well as on that of decency, several precepts respecting it have been dictated by Mohammad. It is frequented for the purpose of performing certain ablutions required by the religion, or by a regard for cleanliness, and for its salutary effects, and for mere luxury. The following description of a public bath will convey a sufficient notion of those in private houses, which are on a smaller scale, and generally consist of only two or three chambers. The public bath comprises several apartments, with mosaic or tessellated pavements, composed of white and black marble, and pieces of fine red tile, and sometimes other materials. The inner apartments are covered with domes, having a number of small, round, glazed apertures, for the admission of light. The first apartment is the meslakh, or disrobing room, which has, in the centre, a fountain of cold water, and, next the walls, wide benches or platforms, encased with marble. These are furnished with mattresses and cushions for the higher and middle classes, and with mats for the poorer sort. The inner division of the building, in the more regularly planned baths, occupies nearly a square: the central and chief portion of it is the principal apartment, or harārah, which generally has the form of a cross. In its centre is a fountain of hot water, rising from a base encased with marble, which serves as a seat. One of the angles of the square is occupied by the beyt-owwal, or antechamber of the harārah: in another, is the fire, over which is the boiler; and each of the other two angles is generally occupied by two small chambers: in one of these is a tank filled with warm water, which pours down from a spout in the dome: in the other, are two taps, side by side; one of hot, and the other of cold water, with a small trough beneath, before which is a seat. The inner apartments are heated by the steam which rises from the fountain and tanks, and by the contiguity of the fire; but the beyt-owwal is not so hot as the harārah, being separated from it by a door. In cold weather, the bather undresses in the former, which has two or three raised seats, like those of the meslakh."

"With a pair of wooden clogs to his feet, and having a large napkin round his loins, and generally a second wound round his head like a turban, a third over his chest, and a fourth covering his back, he enters the harārah, the heat of which causes him immediately to perspire profusely. An attendant of the bath removes from him all the napkins excepting the first; and proceeds to crack the joints of his fingers and toes, &c., and several of the vertebrae of the back and neck; kneads his flesh; and rubs the soles of his feet with a coarse earthen rasp, and his limbs and body with a woollen bag which covers his hand as a glove; after which, the bather, if he please, plunges into one of the tanks. He is then thoroughly washed with soap and water, and fibres of the palm

tree, and sh chambers v water; and generally refresh the soles of and limbs, is a common of coffee du "The wo often have fruits, sweet sengers to a capied by plying the time is pass or refreshm on these occ the lower of any coverin to men; or to men dur women. A napkin, or ed over the "Before public bath against the he at first t ing them; do so, if fo of their hav also on acc they had n houses. It to be a cha to a bath, the Prophe the devil is

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"The w custom of times, for 'Abbasie assumed I mām Ibn resig nation assumed a husband person. head-veils almost bl with the high as t apartment

tree, and shaved, if he wish it, in one of the small chambers which contain the taps of hot and cold water; and returns to the bey-owwal. Here he generally reclines upon a mattress, and takes some light refreshment, while one of the attendants rubs the soles of his feet, and kneads the flesh of his body and limbs, previously to his resuming his dress. It is a common custom, now, to take a pipe and a cup of coffee during this period of rest.

"The women are especially fond of the bath, and often have entertainments there; taking with them fruits, sweetmeats, &c., and sometimes hiring female singers to accompany them. An hour or more is occupied by the process of plaiting the hair, and applying the depilatory, &c.; and, generally, an equal time is passed in the enjoyment of rest, or recreation, or refreshment. All necessary decorum is observed on these occasions by most females; but women of the lower orders are often seen in the bath without any covering. Some baths are appropriated solely to men; others, only to women; and others, again, to men during the forenoon, and in the afternoon to women. When the bath is appropriated to women, a napkin, or some other piece of drapery, is suspended over the door, to warn men from entering.

"Before the time of Mohammad, there were no public baths in Arabia; and he was so prejudiced against them, for the reasons already alluded to, that he at first forbade both men and women from entering them; afterwards, however, he permitted men to do so, if for the sake of cleanliness, on the condition of their having a cloth round the waist; and women also on account of sickness, child-birth, &c., provided they had not convenient places for bathing in their houses. But, notwithstanding this license, it is held to be a characteristic of a virtuous woman, not to go to a bath, even with her husband's permission: for the Prophet said, 'Whatever woman enters a bath, the devil is with her.'"

On the Wickedness of Women.

"The wickedness of women is a subject upon which the stronger sex among the Arabs, with an affected feeling of superior virtue, often dwell in common conversation. That women are deficient in judgment or good sense is held as a fact not to be disputed even by themselves, as it rests on an assertion of the Prophet; but that they possess a superior degree of cunning is pronounced equally certain and notorious. Their general depravity is pronounced to be much greater than that of men. 'I stood,' said the Prophet, 'at the gate of Paradise: and lo, most of its inmates were the poor; and I stood at the gate of Hell; and lo, most of its inmates were women.' In allusion to women, the Khaleefeh 'Omarsaid, 'Consult them, and do the contrary of what they advise.' But this is not to be done merely for the sake of opposing them; nor when other advice can be had. 'It is desirable for a man,' says a learned Imam, 'before he enters upon any important undertaking, to consult ten intelligent persons among his particular friends; or, if he have not more than five such friends, let him consult each of them twice; or if he have not more than one friend, he should consult him ten times, at ten different visits; if he have not one to consult, let him return to his wife, and consult her; and whatever she advises him to do, let him do the contrary: so shall he proceed rightly in his affair, and attain his object.' A truly virtuous wife is, of course excepted in this rule: such a person is as much respected by Muslims as she is (at least, according to their own account) rarely met with by them."

On the Apparel for Mourning.

"The wearing of mourning appears to have been a custom of both sexes among the Arabs in earlier times, for the black clothing which distinguished the 'Abbasid Khaleefehs and their officers was originally assumed in testimony of grief for the death of the Imam Ibrahim Ibn Mohammad. It has, however, ceased to be worn by men, as indicating a want of resignation to the decrees of Providence, and is only assumed by women on the occasion of the death of a husband or near relation, and not for an elderly person. In the former cases they dye their shirts, head-veils, face-veils, and handkerchiefs, of a blue or almost black colour, with indigo; and sometimes, with the same dye, stain their hands and arms as high as the elbows, and smear the walls of their apartments. They generally abstain from wearing

any article of dress of a bright colour, leave their hair unbraided, and deck themselves with few or no ornaments. They also cease to make use of perfumes, kohl and henna, and often turn upside-down the carpets, mats, cushions, and coverings of the deewans."

We are only restricted by our limits, and the necessity of finding room for notices of other works, from proceeding with our extracts from these valuable Notes, which throw more light on the mystery of Arab life and manners, than perhaps all other works in our language.

THE ANNUALS FOR 1839.

Following the adage,—the *Forget-Me-Not*, being eldest of this gay family, takes precedence in our notice. With no particular novelties among its literary contents, and none of its illustrations (save, perhaps, Mr. Jones's 'Siege,' engraved by Davenport, and Mr. Jennings's sunbriht 'Margate,' rendered by Mr. Allen,) reaching the required standard of perfection or prettiness, the *Forget-Me-Not* is, still, an attractive volume—at once more various and more sprightly in the prose it contains, than other Miscellanies of greater pretension. The Rev. Dr. Croly is here, as usual; we know him in the 'Genie of Wealth,' by his style, and accumulation of incident, though he does choose to sign himself 'Ximenes.' Mr. Jerrold, with his pointed and dramatic dialogue, illustrates the 'Siege' above-mentioned—Mrs. Lee, in her 'Hammer and Nails,' gives us a capital deep-sea ghost story—Miss Lawrance details 'The Belle Sauvage Plot,' with a humour which gives a new zest and raciness to her well-known accuracy of historical and antiquarian knowledge; and 'An Unlucky Traveller' chooses to fish up from among his journals a chapter of romance, of which, in spite of the apparent unfitness of things, Margate is the scene. But none of these tale-tellers must detain us, though each or all would be welcome to our readers. From among the poetry, which is, as usual, contributed by known hands, we shall select two specimens, by authors whom there is little chance of our encountering elsewhere: leaving Mr. T. K. Hervey, Miss London, and Mary Howitt. Our first fragment is of Transatlantic origin:—

The Family Altar.—a Cottage Scene.

BY MRS. SIGOURNEY.

I saw a cradle at a cottage door,
Where the fair mother, with her cheerful wheel,
Carolled so sweet a song, that the young bird
Which, timid, near the threshold sought for seeds,
Paused on his lifted foot, and raised his head
As if to listen. The rejoicing bees
Nestled in throngs amid the woodbine cups,
That o'er the lattice clustered. A clear stream
Came leaping from its sylvan height, and poured
Music upon the pebbles; and the winds,
Which gently 'mid the vernal branches played
Their idle freaks, brought showering blossoms down,
Surfing earth with sweetness.

Sad I came
From weary commerce with the heartless world;
But, when I felt upon my withered cheek
My mother Nature's breath, and heard the tramp
Of those gay insects at their honeyed toil,
Shining like winged jewelry, and drank
The healthful odour of the flowering trees
And bright-eyed violets—but, most of all,
When I beheld mild slumbering Innocence,
And on that young maternal brow, the smile
Of those affections which do purify
And renovate the soul—I turned me back
In gladness, and with added strength, to run
My weary race, lifting a thankful prayer
To Him who showed me some bright tint of Heaven,
Here on the earth, that I might safer walk,
And firmer compass Sin—and surer rise
From earth to Heaven.

The other poem to be here extracted, has its origin at home:—

To my Sister—on her Twenty-third Birth-day.

BY MISS M. A. BROWNE.

Thine eye is radiant still: thy silken hair
Curls just as darkly o'er thy radiant brow;
Still is thy cheek as soft, thy hand as fair,
Thy forehead was no smoother then than now,
And yet two years, two busy years, have past,
Sweet sister! since I sang thy birthday last.

Two changeable years! since then two hoary heads
Have from our home been pillowed in the grave,
And we have known full many an hour that sheds
A double darkness on life's troubled wave,
Friends have been cold, and fortune's sunshine brief:
Sister! those years have had their hours of grief.

And, saddest far, from our own chain of love,
One gentle sister of our hearts is taken,
No more her fairy footsteps round us move,
No more her smile a kindred smile doth waken;
She faded but as dew-drops fade—to rise,
And paint a rainbow in the gloomy skies.

Even so her spirit passed from earth, is yet
Seen like a star in its ethereal light,
And on the misty clouds of our regret,
Riseth Hope's bow of promise, pure and bright;
She hath departed for the holier sphere,
Mourn we, but never wish that she were here.

And I am changed, sweet sister,—even thou
Knowest not the waves of feeling and of thought,
That o'er my heart have passed in troubled flow,
And channels in its wilderness have wrought—
Suffice it that one spot unchanged I see,
The spot whereon is fixed my love for thee.

A love that changeth not, save as the young
And tender sapling, to the firm set tree;
Fresh branches from its stem there may have sprung,
Matured and deeper rooted it may be;
O that it might have power to grow and spread,
A three-fold shield above thy precious head!

Vain hope! thou hast a better shelter proved,
A changeless refuge from the heavy storm,
A shadow from the heat. He who hath loved,
And chosen, and saved thee, will His vows perform,
And bind thee in His sheltering mantle fast,
And bring thee to His glorious Home at last!

The Book of Royalty.—Characteristics of British Palaces. By Mrs. S. C. Hall. The drawings by W. Perring and J. Brown.

The binding of this Annual, usually a feature without the cognizance of the critic, is so gorgeous as not merely to call for praise, but to claim precedence in our three-fold commendation of this volume. The illustrations within, are coloured lithographs, executed by Hullmandel's new process, and so carefully finished as closely to approach what they are intended to represent—namely, coloured drawings. Messrs. Perring and Brown, the artists, are happier in their grouping and contrasts of colour, than in the likenesses of such historical personages as figure in their designs. 'The New Beauty at the Court of Queen Anne' is our foremost favourite: the others being 'King Charles the First parting from his Children,' and 'The King' (that is, the merry Monarch intent on stealing a kiss,) 'reproved.' Neither the traditional loveliness of Mary Stuart, nor the well known features of the Sovereign, have received their due from the designers; the latter Lady, however, up to this time, has baffled every artist. We will not say that Mrs. Hall's history halts in her pleasant and cleverly-varied illustrative tales; but it trips occasionally, and, at best, hangs round her,—like the virtues of certain ladies apologized for by Moore,—loosely. Her best story is the sprightly one of Queen Anne's reign: her worst, the tale wherein gentle King Jamie's Scottish dialect is exhibited. Six of the subjects are illustrated in verse; but surely it was a little hardy—Shakespeare having gone before—once again to present in dramatic form, Queen Katharine, and the two Princes!

The Amaranth.—In this splendid book, the literary contents, for their excellence and variety, are the leading attraction. Mr. Hervey numbers hardly one insignificant name among his contributors, and, what is more to the purpose, he has hardly one insignificant contribution. The prose,—by Mr. Harrison, Mr. Sheridan Knowles, Mr. Poole, Mary Howitt, the Author of 'Conti,' and the Editor himself—is beyond our limits for extract. Nor dare we attack Mr. Jerrold's 'Prodigal's Farewell,' nor its companion dramatic scene, 'The Cousins,' by Barry Cornwall; for we must steal a few pages from the poets—who are singing so loudly and so well as to warrant a notion that *their* spring is coming round, after

a long and wintry pause. First, let us take a passage from the Editor's own musical 'Bird of the Canaries,' an illustration to a female portrait:—

Oh, fairy from the far-off main!—
Thou little flute with golden wings!
Thy spirit-hue and spirit-strain
Are types of fairer things,
And we have dearer gifts than these
Amid the mists of northern seas!
Bright forms that flutter in the sun,
With voices sweet as silver bells,
Whose tones along the spirit run,
Like music's very spells,—
And open, with their own sweet art,
Those inner chambers of the heart,
Within whose depths was never heard
The singing of the bird.
And if thy wing of gold or green
Be not to our beloved given,
Winged thoughts, within their dark eyes seen,
Take, oh, the soul to heaven!
But bring it surely back, to rest,
At eve, within an earthly nest.
Our fairies these—while floating, free
As thou amid thy far-off sea,
And, like thy sisters, singing sooth,
In the bright island of their youth!
But years to our beloved bring
A richer song, with ripper age,
When each is bound, with golden ring,
Within a golden cage,—
In whose sweet hush and holy rest,
New sounds steal up along the breast—
The angels playing soft and low,
As erst in Eden—long ago!—
Rich harmonies, till then unheard,
Gush from our own bright human bird,
And hues come o'er its heart, whose eyes
Can have no fountain but the skies.
Oh! beauty haunteth every where,
For spirits that can see aright,
And music fills the common air
Of morn, and noon, and night:—
But beauty wears no form on earth
Like that which atteth by the hearth:—
And, 'mid the music of the throng,
They never know, who always roam,
How sweeter far that sweetest song
That WOMAN sings—at HOME.

Neither can we pass—

The Three Margys.

On seeing the Picture, in 1812 and 1837.

BY EDENKNEZ KELLIOTT.

The lifeless Son—the Mother's agony,
O'erstrained till agony refused to feel—
That sinner too, I then, dry-eyed, could see;
For I was hardened in my selfish weal,
And strength and joy had strung my soul with steel.
I knew not then that man may live to be
A thing of life that feels he lives in vain;
A taper to be quenched in misery!
Forgive me, then, Cæcili! if I seek
To look on this, thy tale of tears again;
For now the swift is slow—the strong is weak.
Mother of Christ! how merciful is pain!
But if I longer view thy tear-stained cheek,
Heart-broken Magdalene! my heart will break!

Mary Howitt's 'Fisherman's Song' is fresh and beautiful; but the name of the next lady, whose verse we shall quote, is, to our discontent, the greater rarity.

When I was in my Prime.

BY CAROLINE ROWLES.

I mind me of a pleasant time,—
A season long ago,—
The pleasantest I've ever known,
Or ever now can know:
Bees, birds, and little tinkling rills
So merrily did chime;
The year was in its sweet spring-tide,
And I—was in my prime.
I've never heard such music since,
From every bending spray,—
I've never pul'd such primroses,
Set thick on bank and brae,—
I've never smelt such violets,—
As, all that pleasant time,
I found by every hawthorn root,
When I was in my prime.
Yon moory dune, so black and bare,
Was gorgeous, then, and gay
With gorse and gowan, blossoming
As none blooms now-a-day:—
The blackbird sings but seldom now,
Up there in the old lime.
Where, hours, and hours, he used to sing,
When I was in my prime.
Such cutting winds came never then,
To pierce one through and through;
More softly fell the silent shower—
More balmily the dew:
The morning mist and evening haze—
Unlike this cold grey rime—
Seemed woven waves of golden air,
When I was in my prime.

And blackberries—so mawkish now—
Were finely flavoured then;
And hazel nuts! such clusters thick
I ne'er shall pull again!—
Nor strawberries, blushing wild, as rich,
As fruits of sunnier clime;—
How all is altered for the worse,
Since I was in my prime!

We can but mention Mr. Swain's 'Fairies and Flowers,' James Montgomery's 'Myrtle,' and Allan Cunningham's 'Poor Man's Benison,' being totally stopped by a welcome blow aimed at a popular and picturesque fallacy in the following—

Morning Meditations.

BY THOMAS HOOD.

Let Taylor preach, upon a morning breezy,
How well to rise while night and larks are flying—
For my part, getting up seems not as easy

By half as lying.

What if the lark does carol in the sky,
Soaring beyond the sight to find him out—
Wherefore am I to rise at such a fly?

I'm not a trout!

Talk not to me of bees and such like hums,
The smell of sweet herbs at the morning prime—
Only lie long enough, and bed becomes

A bed of thine.

To me Dan Phœbus and his car are nought,
His steeds that play in his chariot about,—
Let them enjoy, say I, as horses ought,

The first turn-out!

Right beautiful the dewy meads appear,
Besprinkled by the rosy-fingered girl—
What then, if I prefer my pillow beer

To early pearl?

My stomach is not ruled by other men's,
And, grumbling for a reason, quaintly begs,
Wherefore should master rise before the hens

Have laid the eggs?

Why from a comfortable pillow start,
To see faint flax in the east awaken,—
A fig, say I, for any streaky part,

Excepting bacon!

An early riser Mr. Gray has drawn,
Who used to haste, the dewy grass among,
To meet the sun upon the upland lawn—

Well—he died young!

With charwomen such early hours agree,
And sweeps that earn belittles their bite and sup,
But I'm no climbing boy, and need not be

All up—all up!

So here I'll lie, my morning calls deferring,
Till something nearer to the stroke of noon;—
A man that's fond preciously of stirring,

Must be a spoon!

Mr. Praed's charades—graceful and piquant enough to set all poets at work to dress up "My first, my second, and my whole,"—Mr. Graham's 'Fleta,'—two touching Sonnets by the Rev. T. Dale,—Miss Barrett's 'Sabbath on the Sea,' and Mr. Whitehead's 'Death of Chatterton,' must be left untouched, though reluctantly. Our last extract shall be a sprightly one.

Reasons for Risibility.

BY E. M. FITZGERALD.

"Why do you laugh so much?"—Query in a Ball Room.

Sweet coz! I'm happy when I can,
I'm merry while I may,
For life's at most a narrow span,
At best a winter's day:
If care could make the sunbeam wear
A brighter, warmer hue,
The evening star shine out more fair,
The blue sky look more blue,
Then I should grow a graver man,—
But since 'tis not the way,
Sweet coz!—I'm happy when I can,
And merry while I may!

If sighs could make us sin the less,
Perchance I were not glad,—
If mourning were the sage's dress,
My garb should still be sad:
But since the angels' wings are white,
And even the young saints smile,—
Since virtue wears a brow of light,
And vice a robe of guile,—
Since laughter is not under ban,
Nor goodness clad in grey,—
Sweet coz! I'm happy when I can,
And merry while I may!

I've seen a bishop dance a reel,
And a sinner fast and pray,
A knave at top of fortune's wheel,
And a good man cast away!
Wine have I seen your grave ones quaff
Might set our feet afloat,
But I never heard a hearty laugh
From out a villain's throat;

And I never knew a mirthful man
Make sad a young maid's day,—
So, coz! I'm happy when I can,
And merry while I may!

And now for the illustrations of the *Amaranth*. 'The Sisters' engraved by Mr. Adcock, after a drawing by Wright, is the best of the figure subjects. Mr. Fraser's 'Noonday Meal' has been cleverly engraved by Mr. Lightfoot; but our favourites are the three landscapes—'The Devil's Pool,' by W. R. Smith, after Gainsborough, too Cuypp-like a scene to bear so grisly a name—'The Dutch Fishermen,' by Willmore, after Vickers—and 'Margate from the Sea,' by the same engraver, after Chambers. All these are in the line manner, and most carefully executed.

The Diadem; a book for the Boudoir. Edited by Miss Louisa H. Sheridan.—In this book, as in the *Amaranth*, the editress and her friends are more attractive than the artists. Miss Sheridan has gathered round her many contributors of literary fame, among whom must be specified Mr. Campbell, Messrs. James and Horace Smith, Lady Blessington, and Allan Cunningham—and a few whose "style and title" is their best, if not their sole, recommendation. Mr. Cochrane has yielded her a fragment from a Greek journal—her own diary, a legend told by Sir Walter Scott to the late Duchess of St. Alban's, and hitherto unpublished—Count Popoli, an Italian *duetto*, so musical in its language, that it hardly requires to be mated with melody. But the brightest gems in Miss Sheridan's book are two short poems—the first, from the collection of the late Earl of Buchan:—

Truth at Court.

BY PHILIP DORMER, FOURTH EARL OF CHESTERFIELD.
(Written in 1761.)

Now lie upon't, quoth FLATTERY,
These are sad days indeed for me;
Scorn'd by the Man, and in the Place
Where least I thought to meet disgrace!
And yet I said the handsomest things,—
"Thou young, but righteous, best of kings,
"Thou who"—abrupt he turned away,
And with an air which seemed to say,
"Go, show that Gentleman the door,
"And never let me see him more."

Shock'd I withdrew;—when, to enhance
My shame, I straightway saw advance
And take my very place forthwith.
That strange, old-fashioned fellow, TRUTH!
O! how it grieved my heart to see
The difference made twist him and me!
I, of each sanguine hope bereav'd,
He, with a gracious smile receiv'd,
And yet, or greatly I mistake;
The Monarch blush'd whene'er he spake;
For TRUTH, tho' in a plainer way,
Said everything I wished to say!

The other rarity which we shall select, is by a hand yet more notorious:—

Song.

BY WILLIAM CONGREVE, DRAMATIST.
(Written in 1729.)

False! tho' you've been to me and Love,
I ne'er can take revenge;
So much your wondrous beautys move,
I'll regret your change.
In hours of bliss we often met,
They could not always last,
And tho' the present I regret,
I still am grateful for the past.

But think not, fair (one), tho' my breast
A generous flame has warm'd,
You ere again could make me blest,
Or charm as once you charm'd.
Who may your future favours own,
May future change forgive—
In Love the first deceit alone
Is what you never can retrieve!

The illustrations to the *Diadem*—consisting of pretty and graceful female figures, in painter's costume—have been carefully engraved, after drawings by Messrs. Perring and Brown, who seem to have stepped into the boudoir-popularity lately occupied by Mr. Parris. The design most to our taste, is 'The Captive of Tripolitza.'

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

The Heir of Selwood: or Three Epochs of a Life, by the authoress of 'Mothers and Daughters,' Mrs. Amytage, &c. &c.—In these days, when the generosity of novelists aim at producing their effects by a felicitous style or passages of incidental description, rather than by construction—any story with a plot, is welcome as a novelty. Such is 'The Heir of Selwood,'—a novel which may pair off, in merit, with Mrs. Trollope's 'Tremordyn Cliff,' each having for its *prima intenzione* the unlawful means taken to secure the possession of a magnificent property and an ancient name—each being excellent in the complication of the story, and sadly deficient in the solution of the same. Mrs. Gore, indeed, appears to have bewildered herself in the maze within which it was necessary that the fortunes of Matilda Norman (her heroine) should be entangled; and in this state of bewilderment to have given her principal figure an expression totally different from the one intended in the first instance. This aforesaid Matilda is the daughter of a Birmingham manufacturer, whom her handsome, noble, irritable husband, a Catholic too, to lessen their chances of affectionate union, marries out of pique; and in the hopes of being blest with an heir to Selwood. Matilda is beautiful and accomplished, stands out from among her family as distinct, but as delicate as the jessamine which flourishes, and will blossom even, pressed against the wall of one of her father's factories. Like that flower she is feeble, and like the dingy stonework to which it clings, her kindred, uncouth and coarse though they seem, are necessary to her support; for in spite of her compulsory neglect of them, they gather round her with a touching affection whenever they perceive her happiness in peril;—she, in turn, anxiously hides from them her disappointment in her husband. Being childless and wholly under his influence, during a residence in Paris, she is led, in the hope of reclaiming his affection, to connive at the stratagem of adopting a strange infant, and passing it off as her own. For a time, the course of events moves smoothly; the false heir, introduced with every suitable precaution, proves to be a fine bold, gracious boy; and even Matilda learns to love him almost like a parent; till the truth is revealed to her, that punishment is at hand, in the fact that she is really about to become a mother. Her own child is a daughter, whose arrival opens for her a new vein of affections—afterwards of jealousies—afterwards of distresses. These, however, in due deference to our readers' curiosity, we will not attempt to follow. Mrs. Gore is more earnest than usual in her descriptions, if less piquant in her style—though she still contrives to weave in personal and political allusions,—to introduce in her own clever way glimpses of Parisian and English society,—and to contrast the aristocracy and the commonalty. Altogether, in the immediate prospect of long and gloomy evenings, 'The Heir of Selwood' is a welcome visitant.

AMERICAN NOVELS.—*Cromwell*, by the Author of 'The Brothers.' 2 vols.—*Burton; or the Sieges, a Romance*, by the Author of 'Lafitte.' 2 vols.—*Probus*, by the Author of 'Letters from Palmyra.' 2 vols.—These are welcome, if only as affording an idea of the sort of goods current in the American market; or, in more becoming language, as illustrating the progress of national taste and aspiration. It would seem, from the novels before us, as if Transatlantic artists were beginning to widen their field, to locate themselves in the "Old Country," among the noble houses and busy towns of England, or, by a yet further flight of fancy, among the palaces and theatres of ancient Rome. Though such purely imaginative literature is not likely to be so welcome here as tales of backwood life and adventure, we do not regret the change, inasmuch as we believe many American writers to possess that individual life and character which will give every acquisition made by them, a new and distinguishing feature of its own.—The first of these three novels, however, may be allowed to pass on its way with a very laconic "God speed." Its author's power has lagged far behind his purpose; but, then, it must be owned, that history presents few more intractable subjects for the poet, the playwright, or the novelist, than the career of the Huntingdon brewer's son—a character, not inconsistent, though full of seeming contradictions; a stern, shrewd, comprehensive man of action, living in times, rightly to

conceive the entire spirit of which is a life's task. Often as his portraiture has been attempted, it has never been satisfactorily drawn.—The story of 'Burton' turns on the siege of Quebec, but it is even inferior to 'Cromwell' in execution, and in vigorous conception of character, and must be dismissed in a no less summary fashion.—The third novel is a sequel to the 'Letters from Palmyra,' which were noticed in our columns some time since. Except that the letter-writer is the same Piao, who described the glories and the downfall of Zenobia's empire—that having become a Christian he is now married to Julia, the daughter of the vanquished empress—and that Isaac the Jew, (a happy mixture of Shylock's subtlety and Sheva's humanity,) is here also a chief agent—the principal personages of the story are as completely changed from those of the former one, as is its scene; which is wholly laid at Rome. The Emperor Aurelian is now the central figure, and his persecution of the Christians the leading incident. Fronto, the bigoted, ruthless, high priest of Apollo's temple, ceaselessly works on the inflexible and violent Aurelian to uphold the honour of the ancient faith, by exterminating the disciples of the new one—and Varus, the smooth, epicurean prefect, in whom the selfishness of sensuality has begotten a like cruelty of spirit, meaner indeed, but all the more lasting for its creeping meanness,—are both well drawn. In beautiful and striking contrast to these ministers of evil, stand Macer, the fanatic enthusiast, once a soldier, and a brave one, whose appetite for martyrdom makes him reject all moderating counsel as the suggestions of cowardly expediency, and precipitates him into desperate provocations and defiance—and by his side Probus, no less steadfast, but a man of peace and calm experience; equally willing with Macer to seal his covenant with his blood, but discouraging all violent outbreaks and testimonies volunteered on the part of the Christians, as fruitless,—injurious to the cause, and too apt to spring from the heated dreams of a vain-glorious ambition, instead of proceeding from a firm trust in the new faith, whose banner was engraved with "Peace on Earth" for a motto. Macer and Probus are brought to the Roman tribunal, and suffer death—and their sufferings are minutely registered in Piao's chronicle; both scenes, however, are too thickly sown with the horrors of the torture-chamber and amphitheatre, to be pleasant to dwell on.—This, perhaps, is enough to convey an idea to the reader of the manner in which the subject is treated. It is not easy to predict how far the English public are likely to relish 'Probus,' or its predecessor. The two works have given us pleasure, as being calm, but not lifeless, pictures of past times; and Poetry forbid that we should lose our delight in these, however remote they be! A secondary interest, too, has made them welcome. They are the first works of their kind of American origin which we have encountered—the fruits of a pilgrimage not undertaken without forethought and preparation, if we may judge by its results.

List of New Books.—Ellis's History of Madagascar, 2 vols. 8vo. 25s. cl.—Heath's Book of Beauty, royal 8vo. 21s. silk.—Heath's Beauty's Costume, 4to. 21s. plain, 42s. coloured.—Melton de Mowbray, or the Banker's Son, 3 vols. post 8vo. 31s. 6d. bds.—Bentham's Works, Part VI. royal 8vo. 8s. cl.—Shewell's Housekeeper, 4to. 2s.—Wilson's Surgical Anatomy, 12mo. 16s. 6d. cl.—Opinions on the Bible, 12mo. 6s. cl.—Mahan's Civil Engineering, 8vo. 14s. cl.—Memoir of Mrs. H. Winslow, Essay by J. H. Evans, 18mo. 3s. 6d. cl.—Lives of Sacred Poets, 2nd series, 4s. 6d. cl.—Examination Questions and Answers, from Burnett's Thirty-nine Articles, 4s. 2s.—Examination Questions and Answers, from Mosheim's Ecclesiastical History, 12mo. 4s. 6d. cl.—Notes on the Four Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles, 4s. 16s. cl.—Hole's Practical Discourses on the Liturgy, 8vo. 6s. cl.—Gretton's Introduction to Translation of English Poetry into Latin Elegiacs and Hexameters, 12mo. 6s. cl.—The Writer's and Student's English Grammar, 12mo. 3s. cl.—Prince's Parallel Universal History, crown 8vo. 12s. 6d. cl.—Fruits of Observation, 12mo. 3s. 6d. cl.—Hay's Narrative of the Peninsular War, new edit. 8vo. 15s. cl.—Tidd Pratt's Magistrate's and Parochial Statutes in 1838, 5s. 6d. bds.—Willis on Urinary Diseases, 8vo. 12s. cl.—Cronin on Deafness, 12mo. 1s. cl.—Barker's Supplement to Lempriere's Classical Dictionary, 8vo. 8s. 6d. cl.—Knight's Symbolical Language of Ancient Art and Mythology, 8vo. 6s. cl.—Theobald's Imprisonment for Debt Act, new edit. 12mo. 6s. bds.—The Chess-Player's Hand-Book, 18mo. 1s. swd.—Scott's Beauties of Holiness, 4s. 6s. cl.—Gauger's South Australia, 4s. 3s. cl.—The Sayings and Doings of Sam Slick, 2 vols. post 8vo. 21s. cl.—Harris's Works, 4 vols. royal 12mo. 25s. cl.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PELL RECORDS.

"12th May, 1627.—To Andrew Pittcarne, Esq., master and surveyor of His Majesty's hawks, the sum of 200l., in part of 800l., being a yearly allowance, to wit, 200l. for the entertainment of four falconers for the crow hawks, at 50l. per annum the piece, and 6l. per annum for provision of hawks for His Majesty's service and sport of all kinds, to wit, for the crow, for the heron, for the field, and for the brook, and for all other charges of that nature, payable quarterly during pleasure, and due for the quarter ended at our Lady-day last, 1627.

"22nd May, 1627.—To the Lord Soubize, Duke of Frontenay and Peere of France, the sum of 100l., as parcel of his annuity or yearly pension of 1,200l., payable monthly during such time as he shall abide within this realm, or in His Majesty's service, and for such further time afterwards as His Majesty shall think fit to allow the same, and due for one month, ended the 10th of this instant May, 1627.

"24th May, 1633.—Unto Susanna Shurley, principal dry-nurse to His Majesty's dearest son Charles the Prince, and his dearest daughter, the Lady Mary, the sum of 20l. upon her fee of 40l. per annum, payable half-yearly during pleasure, and due for half a year ended at our Lady-day last, 1633. To Mary de la Garde, Hellen Newberry, Ann Fontaine, Ann Mountney, Mary Stephens, and Anne Paine, rockers to His Majesty's said daughter, to each of them 15l. upon their several fees of 30l. per annum, payable half-yearly during pleasure, and due for the half year ended at our Lady-day, 1633.

"11th June, 1627.—To Sir Peter Vaulore, Knight, the sum of 136l., in part of 3,000l. for the interest of 10,000l., by him heretofore lent unto His Majesty's late dear father, King James, from the 12th day of May, 1622, until the 24th of June, 1625, being three years, after the rate of 10l. per cent. for every year.

"12th June, 1627.—To Andrew Murray, one of His Majesty's posts, commanded by His Majesty to take his journey to the Duke of Brandenburg, in Prussia, for certain deer called elks, the sum of 100l. for defraying the charges of his said journey, without account, &c.

"Memorandum, 18th June, 1627, containing the sum of 500l. to Charles Genty, embroiderer to the Queen, in full of 913l. 10s. in full satisfaction of all charges he hath undergone for certain stuffs, and embroidering 15 gowns, for the said Queen, and 13 ladies, with all other charges he hath been at in the late masque, without account, &c.

"21st June, 1627.—To Philip Burlamachi, merchant, the sum of 323l. upon account, over and above the sum of 6,000l. already issued for the charge of leaving 2,000 men in the realm of Ireland, and for clothing, arming, and transporting them thither to attend the service of His Majesty's fleet.

"27th June, 1627.—To Henry Earl of Holland, the sum of 2,000l., in part of 5,800l. in full payment and satisfaction as well for a journey being in commission with the Duke of Buckingham, to the States of the United Provinces, from the 1st of September, 1625, to the 1st of December following, as also for three diamond rings, and a picture case of gold set with diamonds, by him given and bestowed upon sundry persons, according to His Majesty's directions in that behalf, as a bill of the particulars thereof, subscribed with his own hand, may appear.

4th July, 1627.—Memorandum, containing the sum of 4,200l. to Philip Burlamachi, merchant, to wit, as well the sum of 2,000l., to be exchanged over unto Sir Dudley Carleton, Knight, His Majesty's ambassador, resident with the states of the united provinces of the Low Countries, to be by him employed and disbursed for the charge of transportation of 2,000 men from the Low Countries to Plymouth, to meet His Majesty's troops, consisting, with those 2,000 men, of the number of 10,000 land soldiers, whom His Majesty hath resolved to set forth for his special service, in lieu of which 2,000 men, His Majesty hath given order for transporting the like number into the Low Countries, from the town of Kingston-upon-Hull; as also the sum of 2,200l. to be likewise exchanged over unto the said Sir Dudley Carleton, Knight, to be by him likewise employed and disbursed for the charges of providing arms for the aforesaid 2,000 men, to wit, of 1,000 corselets and 1,000 muskets, the said several sums to be after-

wards accounted for before us and His Majesty's Privy Council.

"11th July, 1627.—To the Right Hon. Thomas Earl of Berkshire, the sum of 133*l*. 6*s*. 8*d*., in part of 20,000*l*., in reward of His Majesty's royal bounty, in consideration of his long and faithful service to His Majesty, without account, imprest, or other charge, to be set upon him, his executors, administrators, or assigns, for the same, or any part thereof.

"20th July, 1627.—To Elianor Felton, widow, the sum of 50*l*., parcel of her yearly allowance of 100*l*., in full satisfaction of all manner of claims and demands to be made for or in respect of the service of her late husband, Thomas Felton, gentleman, deceased, as of His Majesty's free gift and princely charity, payable quarterly during her natural life, and due for half a year ended at our Lady-day last, 1627.

"26th July, 1627.—To James Pringle, Esq., one of His Majesty's Esquires, the sum of 500*l*., for provision of 4 horses, to be by him transported and presented for His Majesty, to His Majesty's dearest sister, the Queen of Bohemia, and other his expences in that service, without account, &c.

"16th July, 1627.—To the Right Hon. William Earl of Denbigh, master of the great wardrobe, the sum of 40*l*., in part of 12,000*l*. imprest for provisions made for solemnizing the funeral of His Majesty's late dear father, King James, of famous memory, deceased."—[The expences of James's funeral appear to have been enormous. There are numberless other entries relating to the subject.]

"16th August, 1627.—To Thomas Swayne, the sum of 2,748*l*. 13*s*. 4*d*., to and for the use of Tynian Jacobson and his partners, of Amsterdam, in satisfaction of their goods taken out of a ship called the *St. Andrew* of Callais, and sold as perishable here in London, by the commissioners for prise goods, for the sum of 2,748*l*. 13*s*. 4*d*., which have since, by sentence of the Court of Admiralty, been adjudged to belong unto them, the same to be taken to him or his assigne, without account, imprest, or other charge, to be set upon him or them for the same, or for any part or parcel thereof.

"10th Oct. 1627.—To Edward Waller, gentleman, collector of the loan in the hundred of Osdey, in the county of Hartford, the sum of 4*l*. 11*s*. 6*d*., in reward for his service and expences in levying and paying into the receipt of His Majesty's Exchequer, the sum of 183*l*., upon the said loan, after the rate of 6*d*. in the pound, without account, &c.

"2nd April, 1628.—To Donald, Baron of Reay, the sum of 200*l*., in part of 500*l*., as of His Majesty's free and princely gift, without account, &c.

"3rd July, 1628.—Unto Phillip Burlamachi, of London, merchant, the sum of 20,000*l*., in full of 30,000*l*., to be by him paid over, by bills of exchange, into the Low Countries and Germany, unto Sir William Balfour, Knight, and John Dolbere, Esq., or either of them, for the levying and providing certain numbers of horse, with arms for horse and foot, to be brought over into this kingdom, for His Majesty's service, to wit, for the levying and transportation of 1,000 horse, 15,000*l*.; for 5,000 muskets, 5,000 corselets, and 5,000 pikes, 10,500*l*., and for 1,000 cuirasses, compleat, 200 corselets, and 200 carabins, 4,500*l*., amounting in the whole to the sum of 30,000*l*.

"5th July, 1628.—To James Ross, one of the pages of His Majesty's bed-chamber, the sum of 300*l*., as of His Majesty's free and princely gift, in recompense of a suit which His Majesty lately bestowed upon him of a parcel of Spanish tobacco lately seized to His Majesty's use, as being forfeited unto His Majesty, which suit he is contented to relinquish without account, &c.

"9th July, 1628.—To Sir Francis Vivian, Knight, captain of His Majesty's castle of St. Maues, in the county of Cornwall, as well 153*l*. 6*s*. 8*d*. for the provision of twenty field carriages mounted upon unshod wheels for the ordnance of the said castle, as also 109*l*. 13*s*. 6*d*. for the necessary reparation of the said castle, imprest upon his account.

"26th July, 1628.—To Susan, Countess of Denbigh, first lady of the bed-chamber to the Queen, the sum of 1,000*l*., in part of 2,000*l*., to be employed for the private use and expences extraordinary of the said Queen in her present progress, as of His Majesty's free gift, &c.

"Last of September, 1628.—To Sir William Park-

hurst, Knight, warden of His Majesty's Mint, the sum of 200*l*., by us thought necessary to be issued to him for the provision of angel gold for His Majesty's healing, to be by him accounted for upon his annual accounts.

"21st Oct. 1628.—Francis Jenour, one of the messengers of His Majesty's chamber, asketh allowance for riding in haste at the command of the Right Hon. the Lord Weston, Lord High Treasurer of England, with letters for His Majesty's service, from Whitehall to Sir Francis Goodwin, at his house beyond Aylesbury, in the county of Buckingham, and there delivered the same, and from thence with like letters for His Majesty's service to Mr. John Pymms, at his house at Brill, in the county of Bucks, and there delivered the same, 46*s*. 8*d*.

"27th Oct. 1628.—To Thomas Briot, a French graver, the sum of 60*l*. imprest for the provision of such a proportion of silver as shall be sufficient for the fabric of His Majesty's great seal of his realm of Scotland.

"20th Nov. 1628.—To Nicholas Shrimpton, one of the messengers of His Majesty's chamber, who, by the commandment of the Right Hon. Sir Robert Heath, Knight, His Majesty's Attorney General, took into his custody and safe keeping the body of John Good, from the 13th day of March now last past until the 20th day of June then next following, being ninety-two days meat, drink, lodging, and other necessities, besides his attendance, 20*l*.

"24th Dec. 1628.—To Phillip Burlamachi, of London, merchant, the sum of 3,000*l*. imprest, for the satisfying of the interest due for the sum of 58,000*l*., negotiated upon certain of His Majesty's jewels in the Low Countries, in the month of February 1625, over and above the sum of 10,200*l*. payable by former privy seal unto him for this purpose.

"21st March, 1628.—To Thomas Hooker, His Majesty's tennis-court keeper, at His Majesty's house of St. James, the sum of 398*l*. 3*s*. 2*d*., in full of 798*l*. 3*s*. 2*d*., in full satisfaction for so much due unto him, as well for monies by him laid out for balls and other necessities about the said tennis-court for His Majesty's use and service, as for monies by His Majesty lost unto him at play there, without account, &c.

"11th May, 1629.—To James Maxwell, Esq., one of the grooms of His Majesty's bed-chamber, the sum of 700*l*. for a ring set with a fair large diamond, by him sold and delivered unto His Majesty without any other account.

"12th May, 1629.—To Donald Mackay, Baron of Reay, the sum of 300*l*., in full of 500*l*., as of His Majesty's free and princely gift, without account, &c.

"18th May, 1629.—To Madam Francoise Montbodiad, nourice, and first woman of the chamber to the Queen, the sum of 250*l*., upon her annuity or pension of 500*l*. per annum, payable quarterly during pleasure, and due for half a year, ended at Christmas 1627.

"19th May, 1629.—To Robert Hooke, of London, goldsmith, the sum of 500*l*., in part of 900*l*., for one jewel of diamonds of that value, which His Majesty hath received, without account, &c.

"19th May, 1629.—To George John Payblitz, late colonel of two several regiments, the one of horse, the other of foot, under Count Mansfeld, deceased, who is come hither to serve in His Majesty's present wars, the sum of 500*l*., in part of 1,000*l*., as of His Majesty's free gift and bounty in consideration hereof, as likewise of his many acceptable services performed in the wars undertaken for the Prince Elector Palatine.

"19th May, 1629.—To Andrew Melvill, the sum of 100*l*., as of His Majesty's free and princely gift, without account, &c. in consideration he hath by an unhappy accident lost one of his eyes, and thereby received much prejudice, being utterly disabled to undertake such courses for his maintenance as otherwise he might have done.

"23rd May, 1629.—To the Right Hon. the Earl of Kelly, the sum of 400*l*., in part of 10,000*l*., as of His Majesty's free gift, without any account, &c.

"20th July, 1629, by virtue of His Majesty's letters of Privy Seal dated 15th July 1627, confirmed by His Majesty's letters patent under the Great Seal of England, dated the 18th of May last, 1629.—That you deliver and pay of such His Majesty's treasure as remaineth in your charge, unto William Alcock, gentleman, administrator of the

late Duke of Buckingham, the sum of 2,000*l*., in part of 28,656*l*. 16*s*., remains of the sum of 39,835*l*. 16*s*., in full satisfaction of so much by his lordship disbursed for His Majesty's service, as namely, for the charge of attending His Majesty in his journey into Spain, when His Majesty was Prince of Wales, and sundry other great expences during His Majesty's being in that court, 12,943*l*. 16*s*.; and likewise for several jewels delivered unto His Majesty when he was in Spain, and given by His Majesty in rewards, which jewels were seen and valued by jewellers at the sum of 18,292*l*.; and also for furnishing the fleet, then lately set forth, the sum of 8,600*l*.; amounting in all to the sum aforesaid, without account, &c. whereof paid, and to be paid by a former order, 2,000*l*.

"30th July, 1629.—Unto Ann Tien, of London, widow, the sum of 3,000*l*., for one great jewel, called a looking-glass, set in a fair frame of gold, with diamonds, rubies, emeralds, and other precious stones, lately bought by His Majesty of her, without account.

"29th Aug. 1629.—Sir Robert Pye. Whereas His Majesty, upon a contract and agreement made between him and one Mr. Edward Thomas, for a house, and lands, and orchard, in Lambeth, is to pay unto the said Edward Thomas the sum of 14,000*l*., for which there is yet no privy seal passed, &c. Now, forasmuch as it is His Majesty's express pleasure that the same contract should be discharged, and 700*l*. being the moiety to be forthwith paid, these are to pray and require, &c. Signed, Richard Weston.

"27th Oct. 1629.—To John Abrahall, Esq., the sum of 700*l*., in full of 1,400*l*., for surrender of a capital message in Lambeth, in the county of Surrey, wherein Sir George Chute, Knight, lately dwelt, and the small tenements adjoining thereto, with the orchard and gardens belonging to the said capital message.

"30th Oct. 1629.—Unto James Herriott, His Majesty's jeweller, the sum of 600*l*., without account, &c., in full satisfaction of, and for the price of a rich garter set with diamonds, by him sold unto His Majesty, and sent to the King of Sweden.

"30th Oct. 1629.—To James Herriott, His Majesty's jeweller, the sum of 310*l*., without account, &c., in satisfaction of, and for a ring set with a large thick table diamond, at the price of 250*l*.; and a tablet for a picture, with His Majesty's cipher of diamonds on the one side, of the value of 60*l*., by him lately sold and delivered unto His Majesty.

"5th Jan. 1629.—To James Herriott, His Majesty's jeweller, the sum of 350*l*., for a jewel set with rich diamonds, by him sold and delivered unto His Majesty, and presented at the christening of Sir Francis Cottington his child.

"12th Feb. 1629.—To John Bonnal, keeper of His Majesty's gardens, &c. at Oatlands, the sum of 100*l*., being an yearly allowance for his charge in digging, dressing, weeding, &c. the vyne and vyneyard, the gardens, &c., and for feeding and keeping the silkworms there, payable quarterly, and due for one whole year, ended at Michaelmas 1626.

"22nd March, 1629.—Unto Francis Walwin the sum of 70*l*., in part of 267*l*., for engraving, polishing diamond boort, and divers other materials for the cutting and finishing of His Majesty's arms in a diamond, with the letters of the name of His Majesty's dearest consort the Queen on each side."

Our few remaining extracts relate to a later period:

"1636.—Edward Greene, graver, imprest for charges of making the great seal, and other seals for Ireland, over and above 200*l*. formerly imprest, 110*l*. 14*s*. 7*d*.

"1637.—Lord Marquis Huntley, in full satisfaction of 8,770*l*. 16*s*. 8*d*., for surrender of the hereditary offices of two sherrifships of Aberdeen and Inverness, in Scotland, 7,833*l*. 6*s*. 8*d*.

"2nd June, 1637.—Peter Le Hue and others, for the charge of alterations and additions unto the scene for the setting forth of the new play, called 'The Royal Slave,' 154*l*.

"1637.—Sir James Palmer, Knight, out of monies received from the Lowcountrymen, for licence to fish on His Majesty's seas, to be disposed in the manufacture of tapistry, erected by Sir Francis Crane, Knight, 501*l*. 12*s*. 2*d*.

"3rd Aug. 1638.—Robert Anwell, for conveying of Willm. Prynn from Caenarvan Castle to the Isle of Jersey, 106*l*. 10*s*.

"March, 1639.—Sir Job Harley and Sir John

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Nulls, Knights, for interest of 25,000*l.*, paid by them to the King of Denmark, to redeem His Majesty's great jewel, 1,000*l.*, and 200*l.* for transport of the same, 1,200*l.*"

With the following, which clash strangely with the preceding, and refer to later and more stirring times, we conclude:—

*To Thomas Stevens, deputy-surveyor, to be issued upon account for the hanging up in Westminster Hall, all the colours, both of horse and foot, taken from the Scotch armies, now and in the year 1648, 42*l.* 14*s.*

*To Capt. Wm. Dysher, to the use of Mr. John Browne, Major of the regiment of horse to the Lord General, by him disbursed, by order from Major General Lambert, for building a guard-house in Palace-yard, in the city of Westminster, for sheltering the horses appointed for the guard of the Parliament, as by the carpenter's bill allowed, &c., 71*l.* 16*s.*

*To the Right Hon. Dorothea, Countess of Leicester, upon her allowance of 3,000*l.* per annum, for the maintenance and education of the Duke of Gloucester and Lady Elizabeth, for 4 months, ended the 9th day of July, 1650, &c., 1,000*l.*

*Paid to Capt. Anthony Mildmay, for extraordinary charges about the remove of the King's children from Penshurst, in Kent, unto Caresbrook Castle, in the Isle of Wight, and for repairs and accommodations there, and charges of the Lady Elizabeth, in her sickness and funeral, 312*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

*Paid unto the said Capt. Anthony Mildmay, for interment of the Lady Elizabeth Stewart, in the parish church of Newport, in the Isle of Wight, and to provide mourning for her brother, and for his and her servants, 150*l.*"

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

The nineteenth century is remarkable for triumphs of science, enterprise, and perseverance, over great and acknowledged difficulties, and for the solutions of problems, practical and theoretical, sought in vain, or despaired of in former ages. To the discoveries of the North-west passage, the course of the Niger, the cause of Magnetism, the Mechanism of Light, &c. we have now to add another—the Parallax of the Fixed Stars. This magnificent conquest has, we understand, been achieved by Professor Bessel, of Königsburg, in a series of observations of the double star, No. 61, in the constellation Cygnus, whose distance he has ascertained to be 660,000 times (in round numbers) the radius of the Earth's orbit, or (also in round numbers) 62,700,000,000 miles. The details of this important discovery have been communicated by him to some of his astronomical friends in this country, and will, no doubt, be speedily before the public.

Some highly interesting facts will shortly be made public, the result of a series of experiments upon the living specimen of the electric eel (*Gymnotus electricus*), which was brought to this country from the Amazon a few months since. On Monday last, Dr. Faraday, in the presence of Professors Daniell, Owen, Wheatstone, and others, succeeded in obtaining from it the electric spark; and one of the party, who had the temerity to grasp the creature with both hands, had his curiosity satisfied with a shock, which, if he were before incredulous, must have most effectually removed all doubts as to the electric properties of the animal. The electricity appears to be of the most intense character, being communicated by simply immersing the hands in the vessel of water containing the eel. By one shock not only was the needle of a galvanometer deflected, but chemical action and magnetic induction obtained. When this ichthyological rarity was first exhibited, at a meeting of the Zoological Society, by the gentleman who brought it over, and in whose possession it had then been a considerable time, he stated that it ought to be kept entirely without food. Judging, however, from the very unceremonious manner in which we saw an intruder in the shape of a live gudgeon disposed of, we should almost be inclined to question the philosophy of his recommendation.

The papers tell us of honours recently paid to Thorwaldsen in his native country—in particular of a superb dinner given to him at Stockholm, on which occasion a hundred ladies were among the guests

at table. It is said, however, that the more genial climate of Italy has become so necessary to the veteran artist, that he must shortly return southward, taking Frankfort in his way, where he is to decide upon the site for a statue of Goethe, which he has been commissioned to execute.

The first Flaherty Scholarship at University College, London, has been awarded to Mr. Jacob Waley, Jun., of Devonshire Place, Portland Place, as the best proficient in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. The papers of Mr. Thomas Cubitt, another competitor for the Scholarship, are reported on in very high terms by the Examiners, who declare that, had he been the only candidate, they should not have hesitated a moment in awarding the Scholarship to him. The Examiners were, Dr. Olinthus Gregory, Professor De Morgan, and Professor Sylvester. The Scholarship is 50*l.* a-year, to be held for four years. The Flaherty Scholarship for 1839 will be the object of competition for those who excel in Classics; and, in 1840, will be a second time awarded to the best proficient in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy.

The Board of Trinity College, Dublin, have established a Professorship of Biblical Greek, to which the Rev. G. Sidney Smith, one of the Fellows, has been appointed. This is auxiliary to the Divinity School, which of late years has made rapid improvement in the Dublin College. The course now extends through two years, one of which is devoted to the critical study of the Greek Testament, and the proficiency of the student is tested by constant catechetical instruction and periodical examinations.

Though not surly and cynical enough to denounce the present weeks as those of the 'Annual' plague, it must be confessed that these brilliant books are, in number, almost bewildering. Four have been examined by us this week, and some are still left behind. Here, however, are the plates of 'The Keepsake,' so much superior to those of past years, as to claim a separate notice. They are not merely designed to do duty in Mr. Heath's pretty book, but also to serve as illustrations to the poems of Lord Byron,—the vignette for the title-page being the 'Corsair's Isle,' exquisitely engraved by Radclyffe, after Creswick. Then comes the 'Lady of the Poet's love,' Madame Guiccioli, drawn by Chalon; and,—save that the engraving conveys the impression of brown, in place of golden hair—a faithful likeness: it is beautifully engraved by Thomson. The third illustration, by Dyce—a girl sitting with her hands clasped on her breast—comes nearer, in sweetness of countenance, and simple breadth of management, to Sir Joshua's Children, than anything we have seen by a modern hand. Our next pause is at Mr. Bentley's 'Shipwreck,' (the Shipwreck in 'Don Juan'), a splendid landscape of rock and wave, and stormy sunlight, well engraved, as also is the next subject—Westall's 'Coliseum'—by Willmore. Mr. Chalon's 'Reefer,' a boy, with earnest eyes and wind-blown hair, looking out above the belling sail, is capital: one of the artist's best and least-mannered things. The last design we shall mention is Mr. Harding's moon-lit landscape of ruins—destined, we presume, to illustrate the 'Siege of Corinth,' or the 'Giour.' Here, too, Willmore has done his part well; and here we may take leave, once again saying that 'The Keepsake' has not had so interesting a series of illustrations for some half-dozen years.

POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 300, REGENT STREET, near Langham Place.

Arrangements for Morning and Evening Exhibitions. In consequence of many persons having time to visit evening exhibitions only, the Directors are desirous to meet the wishes of such persons, by opening the Institution as follows:—

PUBLIC MORNING EXHIBITIONS, on the 29th of October, to commence every Day at half-past 10 o'clock till half-past 4, after which no person can be admitted.

Polarization of Light 11 o'clock.
Diver and Diving Bell 12 —
Magnetic Experiments 1 —
Chemical Lecture 2 —
Diver and Diving Bell 3 —
Microscope, showing the decomposition of water, and other phenomena 4 —

PUBLIC EVENING EXHIBITIONS, to commence on the 29th of October, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, open at 7 till 10 o'clock, after which no person can be admitted.
Half-past 7. Magnetic Experiments.
8. Diver and Diving Bell.
9. Microscope.

The spacious Rooms are elegantly lighted with Gas. Lord Dunsford's Rotary Steam-Engine, the curious Metallic Reflections of Sound and Heat, the Astronomical Clock, the Magnificent Specimen of Mosaic, and the extensive collection of curious Models, and other Works of Art and Ingenuity, all the ingenious inventions of Capt. George Smith, R.N., and the Admiralty Block-making Models, will be exhibited.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Oct. 23.—William Yarrell, Esq. in the chair.—Letters were read from the following Corresponding Members of the Society. M. Julian Desjardins, Secretary of the Natural History Society of Mauritius, stating that it was his intention to leave that island on the 1st of January next, for England, with a large collection of objects in Natural History, many of which he intended for the Society.—From Col. P. Campbell, dated Alexandria, to the effect that he had not yet succeeded in gaining any further information respecting the possibility of procuring some white elephants for the menagerie in the Regent's Park.—From Lieut.-Col. Doherty, governor of Sierra Leone, stating that he was using every exertion to procure for the Society a male and a female chimpanzee, in which attempt he fully expected to be successful, but he feared that he should not be able to obtain a living specimen of the hippopotamus, from the superstitious dread with which the natives regard these animals.

Mr. Owen concluded his treatise upon the Osteology of the *Marsupialia*, the reading of which he had commenced at the previous meeting. His paper embraces the details of the entire skeleton, with a description of the various modifications which it assumes in different marsupial genera. Mr. Owen remarked, that when Major Mitchell first submitted to his inspection the fossil marsupial bones discovered by that gentleman in Australia, he was unable to speak with confidence upon their probable affinities; and that for his own satisfaction, and with a view of assisting the subsequent researches of naturalists in that portion of the globe, he had entered upon the examination of all the accessible skeletons of marsupial genera, for the purpose of drawing up a complete history of their comparative osteology.

Mr. Waterhouse exhibited the skulls of several specimens of the genus *Galeopithecus*, for the purpose of pointing out certain osteological peculiarities, which he thought of material importance in determining their specific characters. Mr. Blyth read a paper 'On the Dentition of the Lemurs,' in which he endeavoured to explain a supposed anomaly in their dental formula, by regarding that tooth to be the first false molar, which had hitherto been looked upon as the inferior canine.

Mr. Blyth afterwards exhibited the head of a Cumberland ox of most gigantic size, and of which the two bases of the horns measured seven feet in circumference.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

DRURY LANE.

This Evening, (Last Time) THE MAID OF PALAISEAU; and CHARLEMAGNE.
Monday, MASANIELLO; after which A DIVERTISEMENT; and CHARLEMAGNE.
Tuesday, GUSTAVUS THE THIRD; and CHARLEMAGNE.

COVENT GARDEN.

This Evening, THE TEMPEST; and THE FORESTERS.
On Monday, MACBETH; and THE MILLER AND HIS MEN.
Tuesday, THE TEMPEST; and (in Two Acts) THE CABINET.
Wednesday, THE LADY OF LYONS; and THE FORESTERS.
Thursday, OTHELLO.

'The Foresters,' a lumbering and lugubrious drama of German origin, interspersed with some pleasing music by Mr. Loder; and a two-act farce of serious interest, on the old subject of jealousy, have been added to the entertainments at COVENT GARDEN; but notwithstanding the good acting, neither is of much mark or likelihood.

Mr. Van Amburgh and his wild beasts, and Mr. Ducrow and his chivalry, have gone to DRURY LANE, and form the grand attractions of a spectacle, with the title of 'Charlemagne,' which employs all the scene-shifters and supernumeraries to carry the accumulated 'properties,' and air the contents of the wardrobe. The folks who come to see 'the Lions' however, seem to think the dialogue a waste of time; and we would recommend its abridgment,—an easy process, as any quantity may be excised without detriment to the sense.

One of the pleasantest and most successful productions of the OLYMPIC, is a translation of a French vaudeville with the title of 'Ask no Questions.' The principal characters are an invalid of Napoleon's Old Guard, and a quondam sutler of the camp, now raised

to the dignity of a Baroness, who accidentally meet after long absence; the interview being brought about by a love affair between the daughter of the Baroness and a foster-son of the veteran. The acting of Farren and Mrs. Orger is inimitable; indeed, the performance is admirable throughout. The costumes and scenic arrangements are perfect: the interior of a French *salle à manger*, all windows and doors, with its cold comfortless elegance, is reality. The Baroness's German pronunciation, her flaring dress of red, blue and yellow, and her downright manners, redeemed from vulgarity by good nature—and the veteran's indulgent fondness for his adopted son, dashed with petulant impatience when the young fellow wounds his self-love, by inquiry about his relationship—could not have been better represented by the original French actors, and the hearty cordiality infused by Mrs. Orger and Farren into the personations may have been wanting. The scene where Mrs. Orger recognizes her quondam comrade, when they talk over old times, and she goes through the manual exercise, is one of the most effective on the stage.

MISCELLANEA

Avery's Rotatory Steam-Engine.—This is an American invention, lately introduced into this country. Mr. Hugo Reid, in his treatise on the steam-engine, observes that, "if found available, it will be extremely valuable, from the cheapness of its first construction and the simplicity of its operation." It now appears from the *Scotsman*, that several have been erected, and are much approved of. Mr. Hepburn, a farmer in East Lothian, has had one applied to his threshing machine, which answers admirably. Several are now constructing for various purposes, and Mr. Ruthven, an engineer, has made the following report of one set up on his own premises:—"It is working two planing machines, two boring apparatus, six turning lathes (one of them boring cast steel bores, four and five feet long, the aperture being about one inch in diameter), two grindstones, a pump drawing water twenty feet from the surface, and forcing it into the boiler, and a tilt hammer, giving upwards of forty strokes per minute,—and this is done at an expense of from 12s. to 15s. per week for coals, working sometimes eighteen hours out of twenty-four without stopping."

Guacharo.—A new habitat has been found for the curious bird called the Guacharo (*Steatornis Caripensis*), and Dr. L'Hermier and M. Hautessier have completed its history. The latter has met with it in Spanish Trinidad, where it is sold under the name of Diablotin, and even the church allows it to be eaten on meagre days. The mountains which border the north of this island are a continuation of the chain of Cumana, interrupted by what are called the Dragon's Mouths,—little islands torn asunder by the violence of the currents, and which are all hollowed into deep caverns. The north side of the chain is, on the contrary, cut vertically like a wall, and is unceasingly worn and beaten by an agitated sea. In the sides of these are caverns inhabited by the Guacharo, all open just at the place to which the waves rise, and in the most exposed and dangerous to the fowler these birds chiefly abound. They eat the seeds of palm and other trees, fly abroad at night, and return to their caverns at the point of day. They lay their eggs in March and April, and at each period produce from two to three eggs, the size of those of a pigeon, white, and spotted with yellow. The nest, in shape, resembles the great boletus, from which tinder is made, and is so little hollow in the middle, that it is probably surrounded at the edge by a pad of down, when required to hold the eggs or young birds. It is fixed to the rock like a cornice, and lasts several years; it is formed by masticated and digested materials, placed by the beak, and kneaded with the feet; and, when broken, looks like a cake of sawdust, or tan, and burns like peat, without any decided animal odour.

Cordilleras.—Mr. Pentland has determined the position of the ancient Temple of the Sun, at Cusco: its latitude is 13° 30' 55" S., and longitude 74° 24' 30" W. of Paris. In 14° 33' S. latitude, Mr. Pentland found perpetual snow on the mountains of Vilcanota, which transversely unite the two chains of the east and west of the great Cordilleras, at a height of 15,800 English feet. The eastern chain of the Cordilleras

of Upper Peru, from the parallel of Sorata (15° 5' S. latitude) to that of Salcantai (13° 10'), is composed of an almost uninterrupted series of snowy peaks, and the whole of this central chain is a compound of quartziferous porphyry, posterior to the transition slate and new red sandstone formation. At the Nevado de Guaracota, in 14° 30' S. latitude, an abundant spring, which issued from the mountain more than 80 yards lower than the limit of perpetual snow, marked +3°, 6 of the centigrade thermometer. Mr. Pentland feels assured that, in the centre of the Andes, it is possible to measure an arc of the meridian which shall extend from 20° to 13° 20' S. latitude. The soil is perfectly adapted to the measurement of the bases, towards each extremity of the arc. Mr. Pentland's communications are dated from La Paz in Bolivia.

Ancient Stone.—A stone bearing the following inscription has lately been found, "The late Nicolas Flamel, formerly a writer, has left by will to this church, certain sums and houses, which he acquired and bought during his lifetime, for the performance of certain divine services, and distribution of money as yearly alms, at the Quinze Vingts, Hôtel Dieu, and other churches of Paris." Below this inscription a corpse is carved, with these two lines,

"De terre suis venu, et en terre retourne
L'âme rendue à toi J. H. V. qui les péchés pardonne."

The Prefet de la Seine has given orders to have it placed on the side of the Tour Saint Jacques, opposite to the Rue des Ecervains, for it is the monumental stone of Nicolas Flamel, who in the humble profession of scribe, or writer, acquired a large fortune, and the reputation of having found the philosopher's stone. He was a great benefactor to the church and the poor, he lived in the above-mentioned street, and died in 1417; the stone was formerly placed on one of the pillars in the nave of St. Jacques-la-Boucherie.

New Dye-plant.—In the south of Russia, numerous tufts of Harmala or rue of the steppes, has been remarked. It is called *Inserlik* by the Tatars, and its botanical name is *Peganum harmala*. It sometimes covers extensive plains in the Tatar country: its root is strong and coriaceous, resists the plough, and is an invincible obstacle to cultivation. It is not useful for cattle, its odour being so disagreeable that they will not touch it, but it is likely to prove of immense service to the Russians in their manufactures. Attempts were formerly made to dye cloth of a red colour with the seeds, but it was a complicated process, and has been since abandoned: M. Goebel, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Dorpat, having analyzed these seeds, has ascertained the nature of their colouring matter, and invented a much simpler method of extraction. It is superior to most of the ordinary substances which produce seed, serves equally well for silk, wool, cotton, and linen, presenting every shade from rose to crimson, and not being subject to fade. Half an ounce of the extract is sufficient for dyeing six square archines, or more than three yards, of a deep crimson.

Ancient Money.—With the exception of one or two pieces, the money struck in Guienne by the English is very rare. The cabinet of the Mint in Paris possesses five of gold, that of the King six, and the British Museum nineteen. The most ancient is a piece of silver with effigy of Eleonora. The sovereigns whose effigies are stamped on the monies are, Henry 2, Richard 1, Edward 1, Edward 3, the Black Prince, Richard 2, Henry 4, Henry 5.

Musical Tree.—In the neighbourhood of St. Quentin stood a remarkable tree, from whose roots dull sounds were frequently heard to issue. It had excited much surprise and alarm among the inhabitants of Nauroy, and the circumjacent parishes, but the mystery is now unravelled. The enchanted tree is a very strong beech, at the summit of which two branches crossed each other in such a manner, that when the wind blew, a vibration took place, which resounded as far as the roots. By order of the Mayor, the axe has destroyed the charm, and imparted tranquillity to many a troubled spirit.

Straw.—Several experiments have proved, that straw, saturated with a solution of chalk or potash, becomes incombustible.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

In our notice of Mr. Crose's portrait last week, the artist's name ought to have been Mr. Frederick Lake, not Lane.

ADVERTISEMENTS

LECTURES ON THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE.
PROF. PEPOLI will commence his COURSE of LECTURES on the ITALIAN LANGUAGE on TUESDAY, the 30th instant, at a quarter after Ten o'clock in the Forenoon. The subsequent Lectures will be delivered on Fridays and Tuesdays during the Session. Strangers will be admitted, and without tickets, to the first Lecture.

HENRY MALDEN, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, CHAS. C. ATKINSON, Secretary to the Council, University College, 26th Oct. 1839.

A WRANGLER OF CAMBRIDGE, resident within five minutes' walk of Charing Cross, is desirous of employing his evening hours in INSTRUCTING CIVIL ENGINEERS, and OTHER STUDENTS, in MATHEMATICS and their PRACTICAL APPLICATION.—Address to J. H., at Messrs. Seeley's, Fleet-street.

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W. M. BROWNE, Actuary.

THE QUARTERLY REVIEW, No. CXXIV, is published THIS DAY.

1. Life and Writings of Horace.
2. London's Trees and Shrubs, by the Duke of Britain.
3. Milman's Edition of Gibbon.
4. Spanish Bull-fights.
5. Life of Earl St. Vincent.
6. Queen Elizabeth and her Times.
7. State of Crime in New South Wales.
8. Life of Lord Clarendon.

Nos. CXIX. and CXX., containing the Index of the 19 previous Volumes, will soon be published soon.

John Murray, Albemarle-street.

LATELY PUBLISHED,

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1. The Duke of Wellington's Despatches.
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Mr. SOUTHGATE takes leave to state that, having completed the extensive improvements in his Rooms, he proposes to commence his SALES BY PUBLIC AUCTION, on MONDAY, Oct. 2nd, and Five following days, with

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